

MARVEL

1

WEB OF VENOM

FUNERAL PYRE



BUNN
ALBURQUERQUE
CASSARA
RAMOS

DELANO
2019

WEAPON OF VENOM

WHEN ANDI BENTON WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL, SHE HAD NO IDEA THAT HER GYM TEACHER, FLASH THOMPSON, WAS REALLY THE SYMBIOTIC CRIMEFIGHTER CALLED VENOM!

WHEN ONE OF HIS ENEMIES ATTACKED IN THE MIDDLE OF CLASS, FLASH HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO USE THE VENOM SYMBIOTE TO PROTECT ANDI! UNEXPECTEDLY, ANDI AND A SMALL PORTION OF THE SYMBIOTE WERE JOINED, AND TOGETHER THEY BECAME MANIA!

BUT ANDI'S SYMBIOTE WAS VIOLENTLY STOLEN FROM HER, AND MANIA IS NO MORE. ALL SHE HAS LEFT IS THE **HELL-MARK**, WHICH EMPOWERS HER TO CONJURE HELLFIRE AND SUMMON DEMONS.

SINCE LOSING HER SYMBIOTE, ANDI HAS BEEN BACK IN PHILADELPHIA, LIVING WITH HER AUNT AND TRYING TO GET USED TO LIFE WITHOUT THE SYMBIOTE. BUT TROUBLE HAS A WAY OF FINDING HER...

FUNERAL PYRE

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...MMMNNNGG...

TASTES--

...MMM...

--SO GOOD!

YEEEEAAAGGHHH!



THROK

GET--
--OFF!



WHERE
ARE YOU GOING,
ANDI?

IT'S NOT
LIKE YOU CAN
SLIP AWAY!

YOU
CAN'T GET
AWAY FROM
US!



WE'RE
PART OF
YOU!



YOU'LL
NEVER BE
FREE!







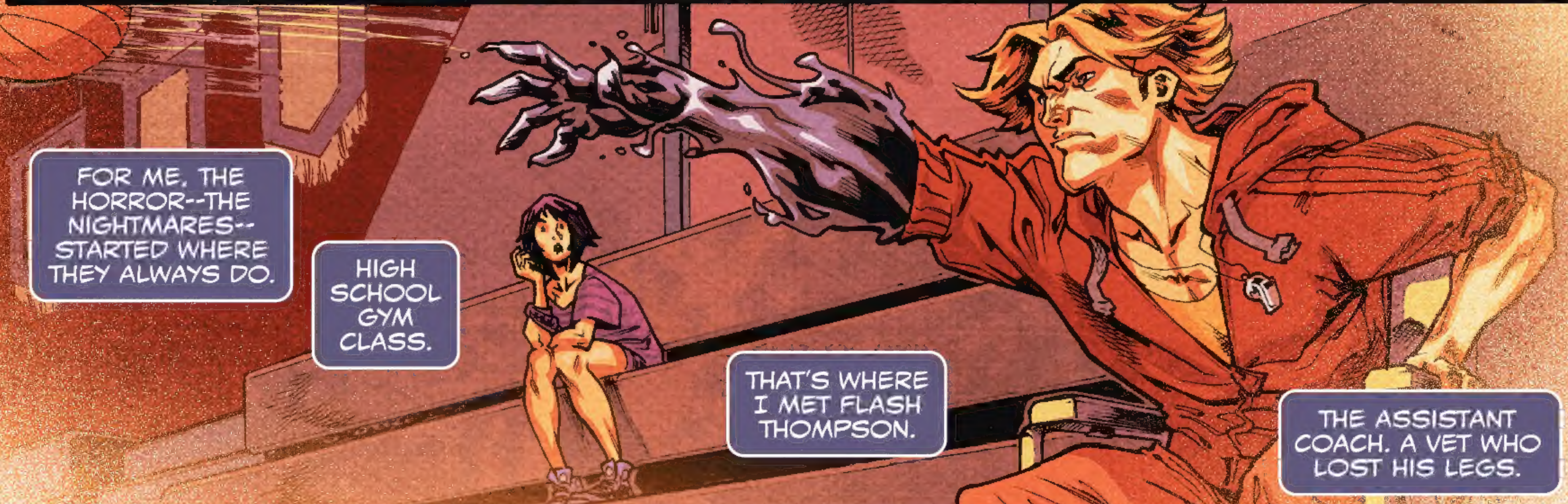


IT'S CUTE HOW
AUNT SARAH
FAWNS OVER
ME.

LORD KNOWS I'VE
GIVEN HER ENOUGH
TO WORRY ABOUT.

BUT IF SHE EVER
REALIZED THE TRUTH...IF
SHE FOUND OUT ABOUT
ALL THE THINGS I'VE
BEEN THROUGH...

...SHE'D
LOSE HER
@#&%.



FOR ME, THE
HORROR--THE
NIGHTMARES--
STARTED WHERE
THEY ALWAYS DO.

HIGH
SCHOOL
GYM
CLASS.

THAT'S WHERE
I MET FLASH
THOMPSON.

THE ASSISTANT
COACH. A VET WHO
LOST HIS LEGS.



FLASH HAD
A SECRET.

WE ALL
DO.

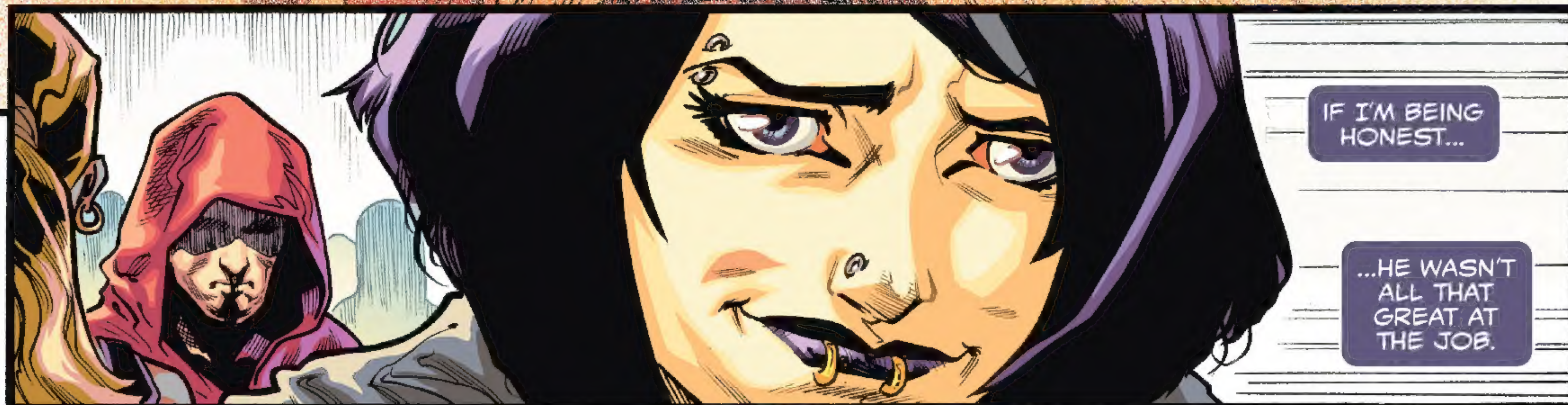
HIS WAS
JUST BIGGER
THAN MOST.



HE WAS A
SUPER
HERO.

AGENT
VENOM.

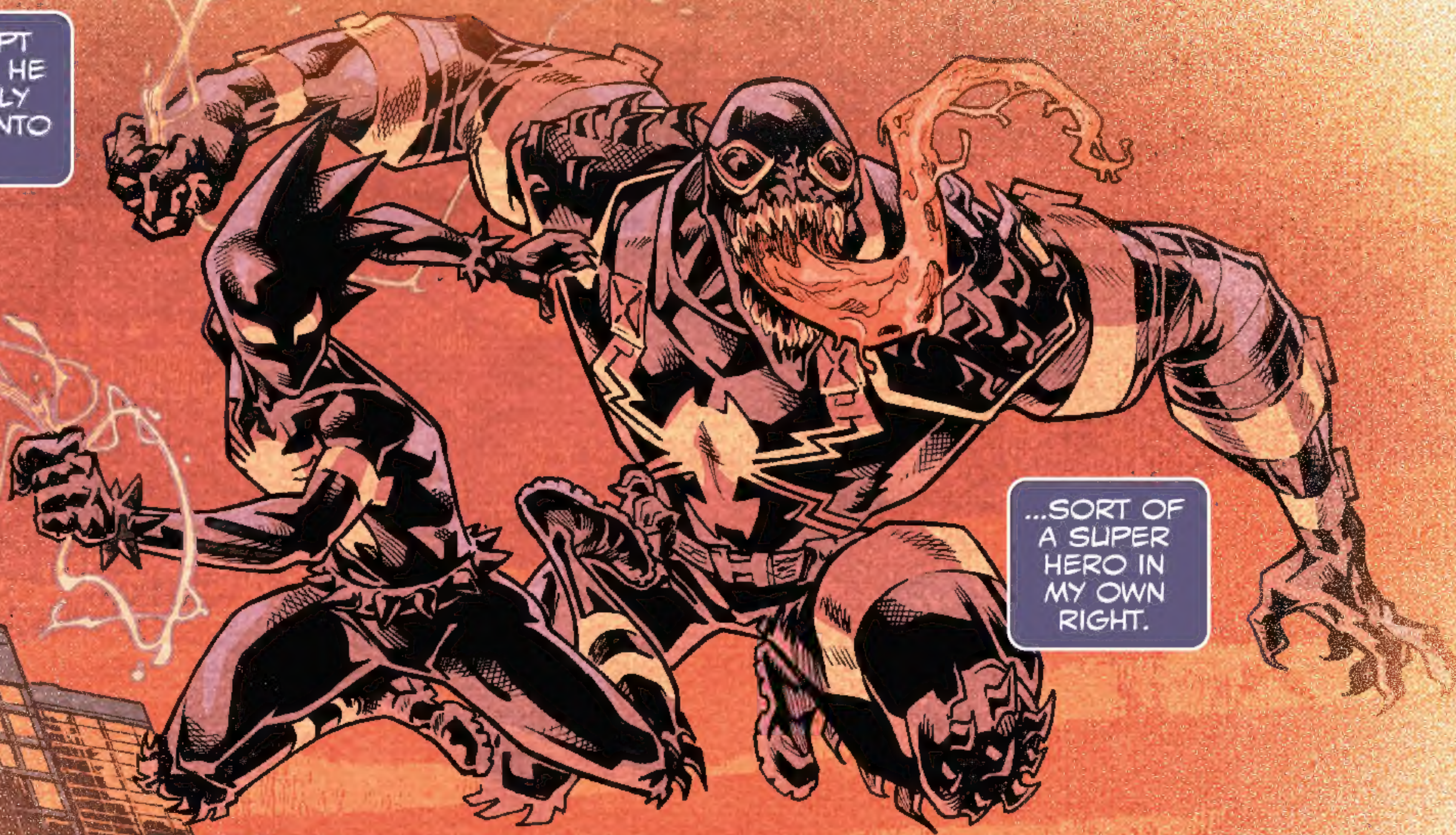
BONDED TO--POSSESSED
BY AN ALIEN SYMBIOTE THAT
GAVE HIM INCREDIBLE POWERS.



IF I'M BEING
HONEST...

...HE WASN'T
ALL THAT
GREAT AT
THE JOB.

IN AN ATTEMPT
TO SAVE ME, HE
ACCIDENTALLY
TURNED ME INTO
MANIA...



...SORT OF
A SLIPER
HERO IN
MY OWN
RIGHT.

I MIGHT'VE BEEN JUST AS
BAD AT IT AS HE WAS.



MY SYMBIOTE
WAS **STOLEN**
FROM ME...

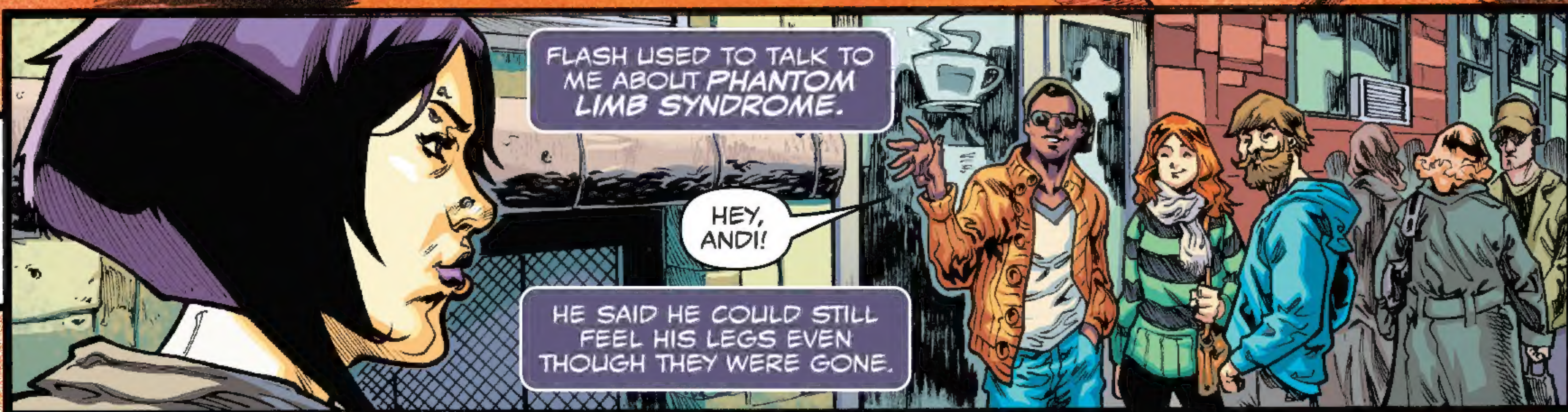
...**RIPPED**
RIGHT OFF ME
IN THE STREETS
OF NEW YORK.



FLASH USED TO TALK TO
ME ABOUT **PHANTOM
LIMB SYNDROME**.

HEY,
ANDI!!

HE SAID HE COULD STILL
FEEL HIS LEGS EVEN
THOUGH THEY WERE GONE.



NOW,
WITHOUT MY
SYMBIOTE...

...I THINK I
KNOW HOW
HE FELT.





NEVER!

NEVER,
ANDI!

NEVER
FREE!

WE'RE
PART OF
YOU!

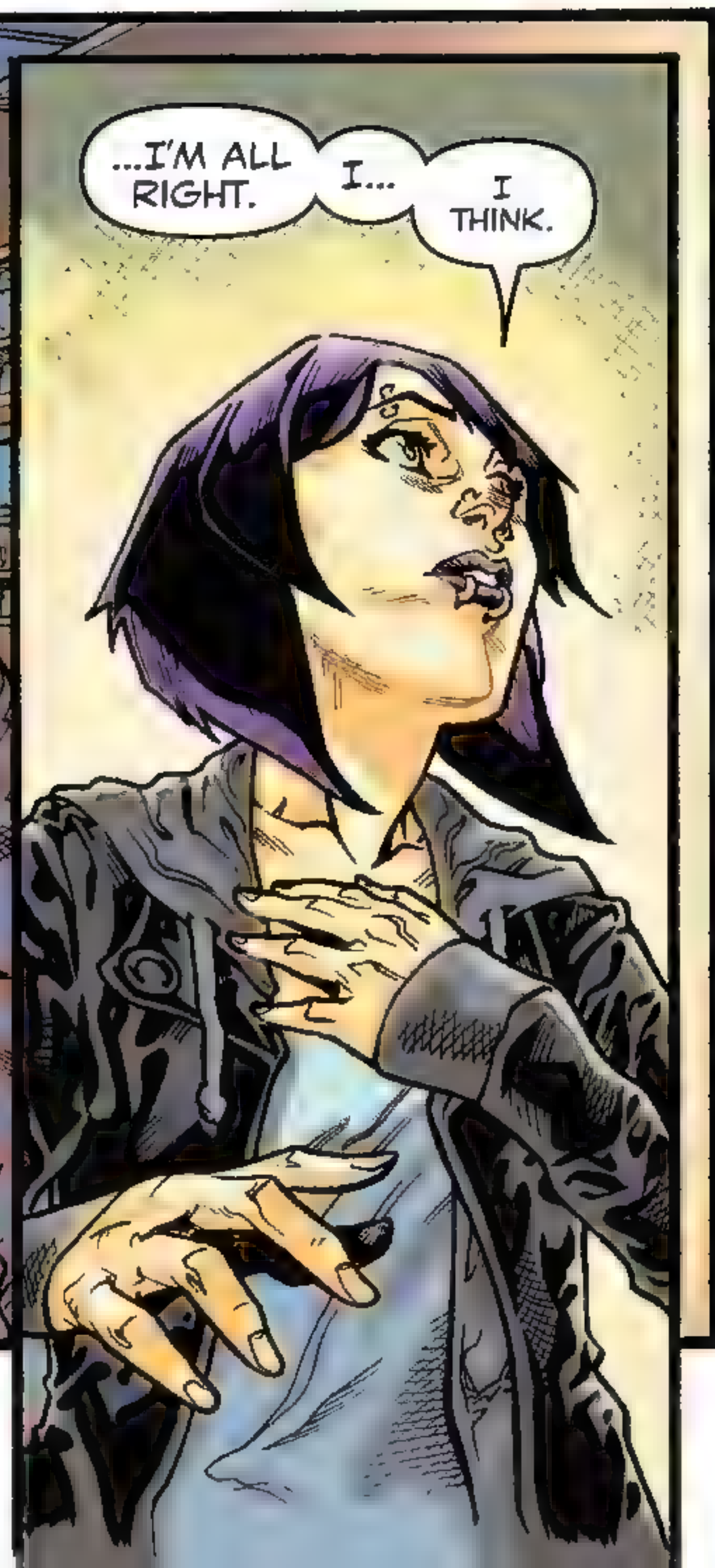
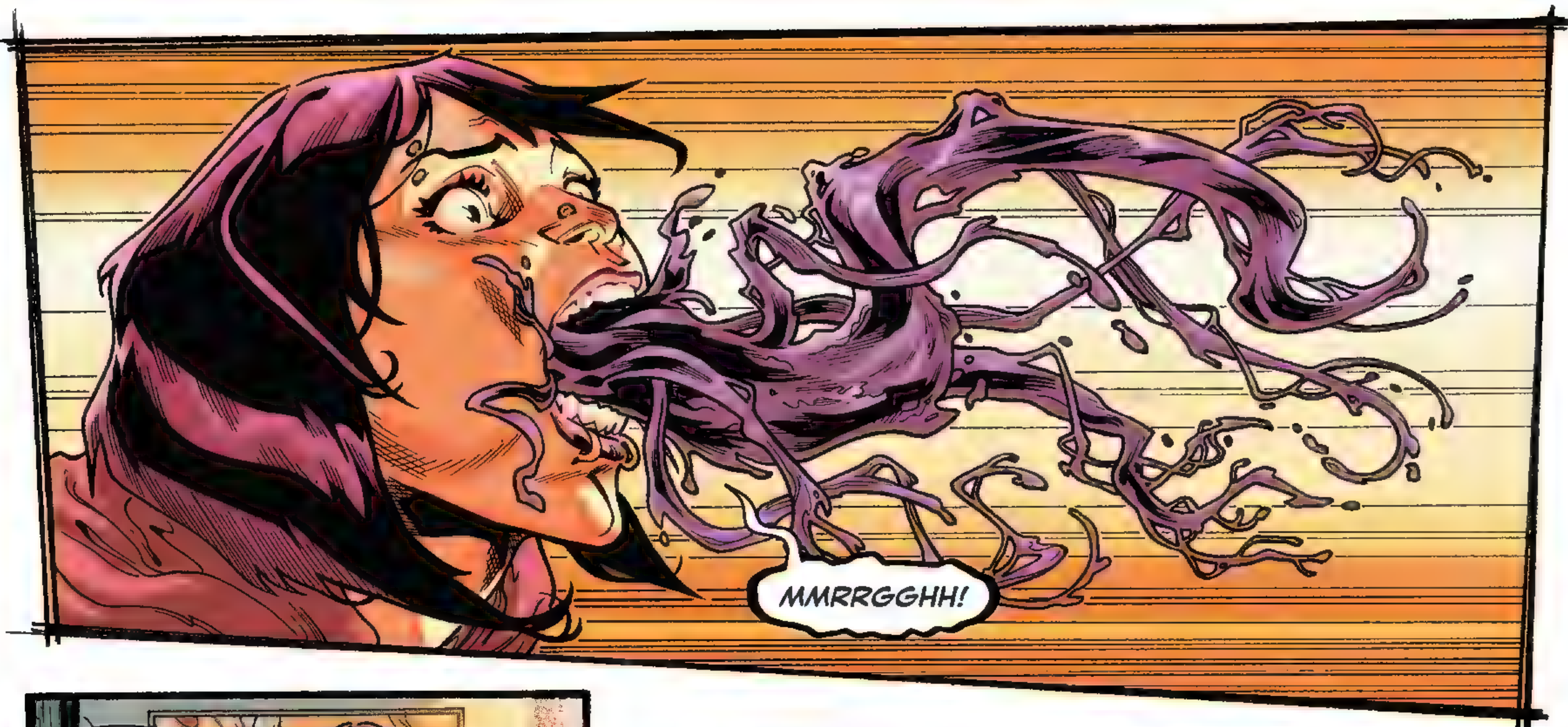
DEEP
INSIDE!

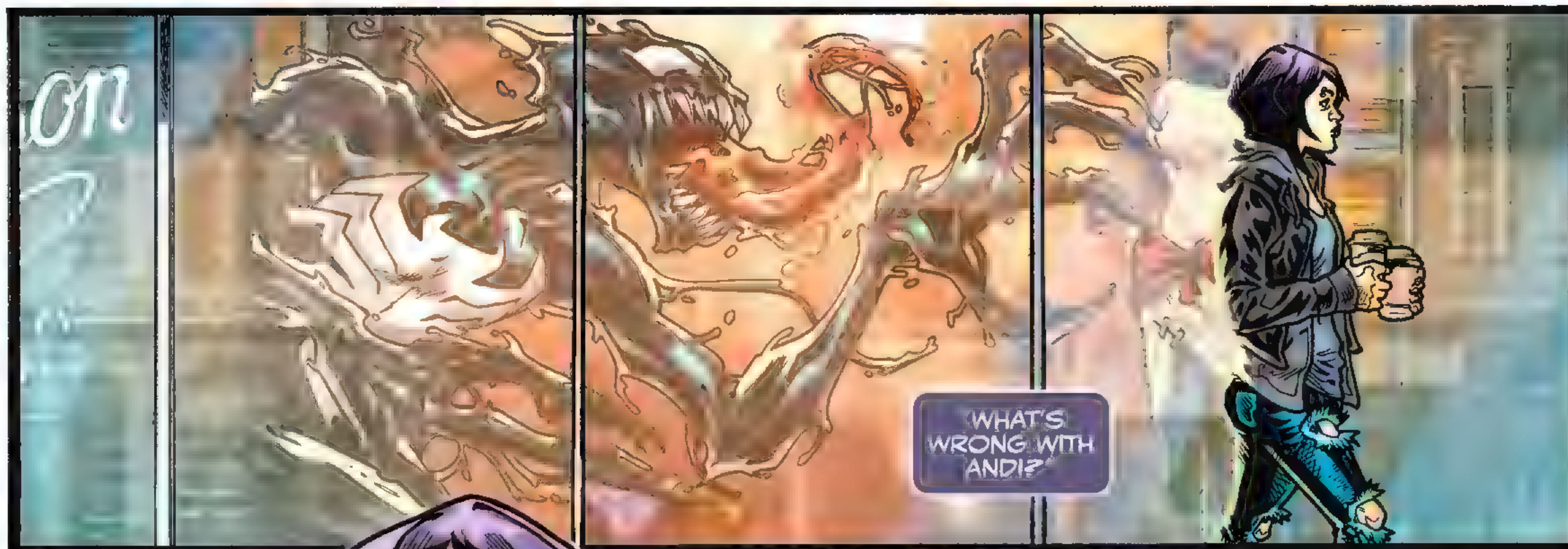
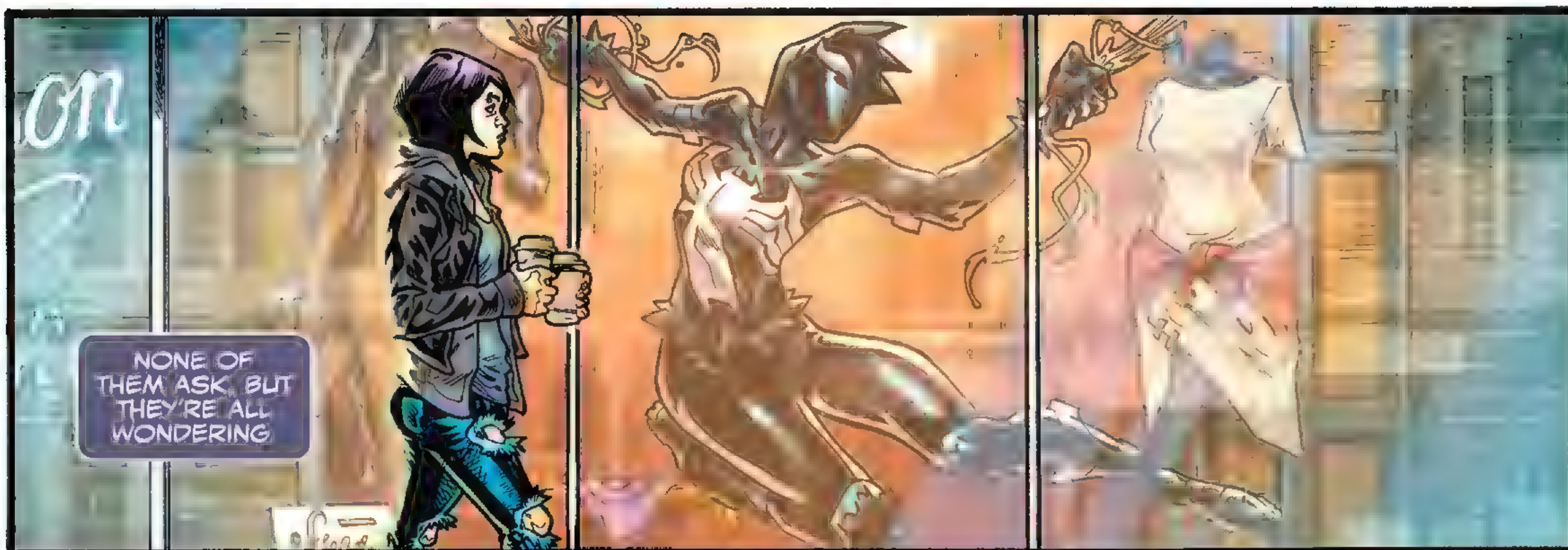
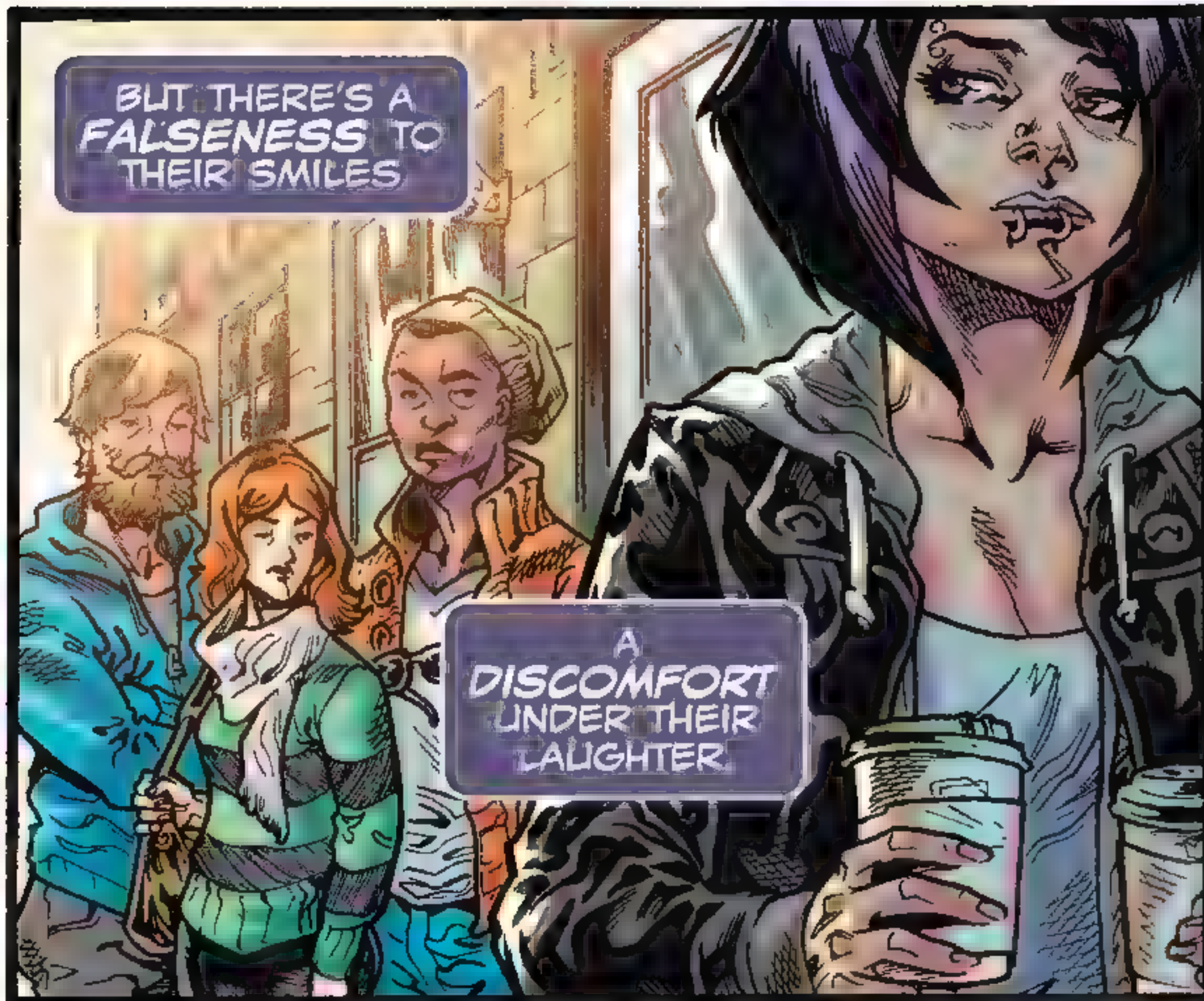
MANIA IS
A PART OF
YOU!

NESTING
IN YOUR
CELLS!



AHHH--







YOU'RE LATE, ANDI.
AGAIN.

IF THEY COULD BE CHILL THROUGH THE WHOLE I USED TO BE A TEENAGE ALIEN-BONDED VIGILANTE CONVERSATION THAT IS

JAZZ

Sales



BUT I BROUGHT COFFEE, MITCH.
AGAIN.

BRIBERY WILL ONLY GET YOU SO FAR.

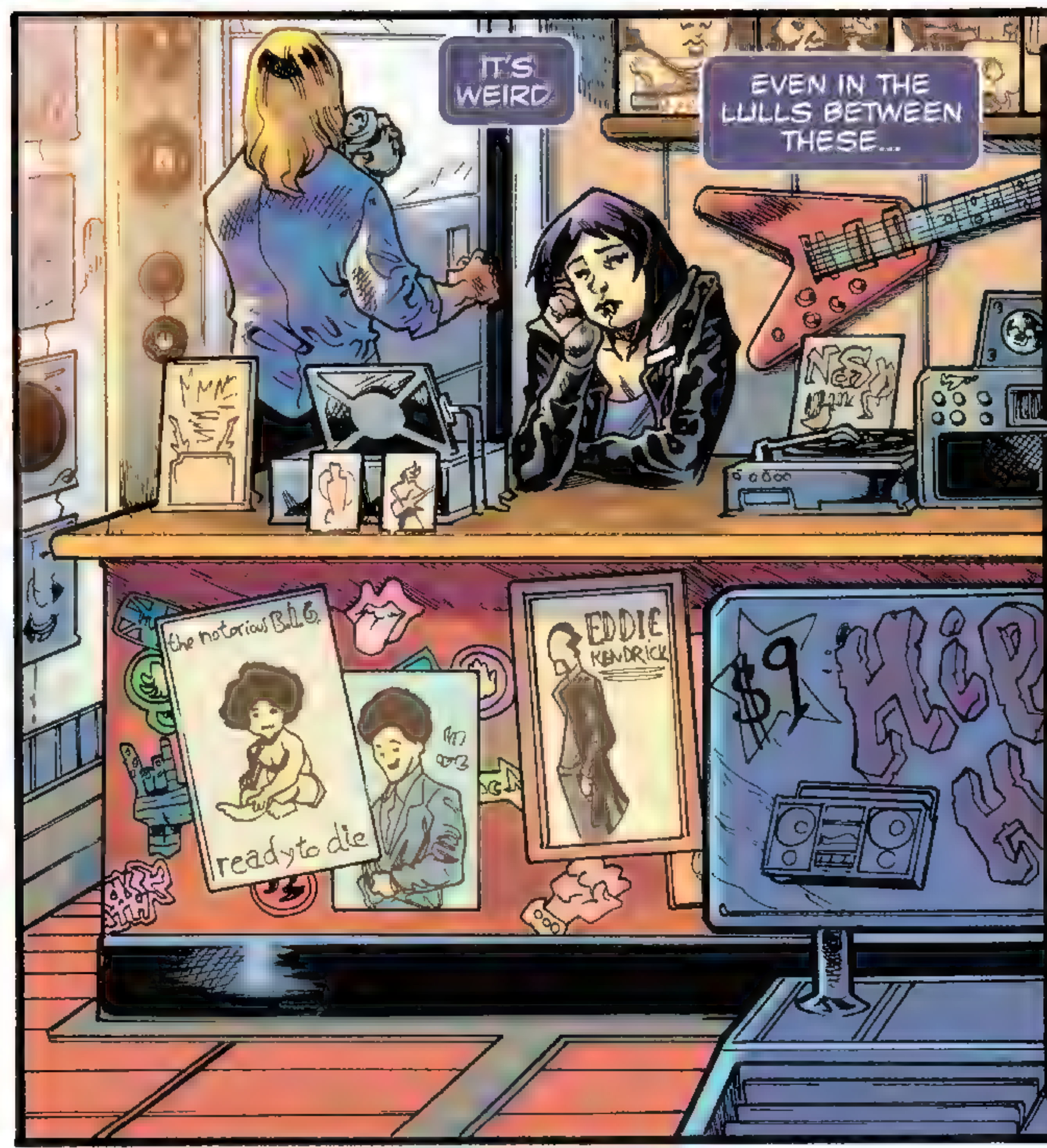


LOTS OF SUGAR? LOTS OF CREAM?

YOU KNOW IT.

YOU'VE ELEVATED TARDINESS TO AN ART FORM.

YOU SHOULD'VE KNOWN ME IN HIGH SCHOOL.



IT'S WEIRD

EVEN IN THE LULLS BETWEEN THESE...



I CAN STILL FEEL THE ANXIETY BUILDING

LIKE I KNOW IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THESE NIGHTMARES RETURN.

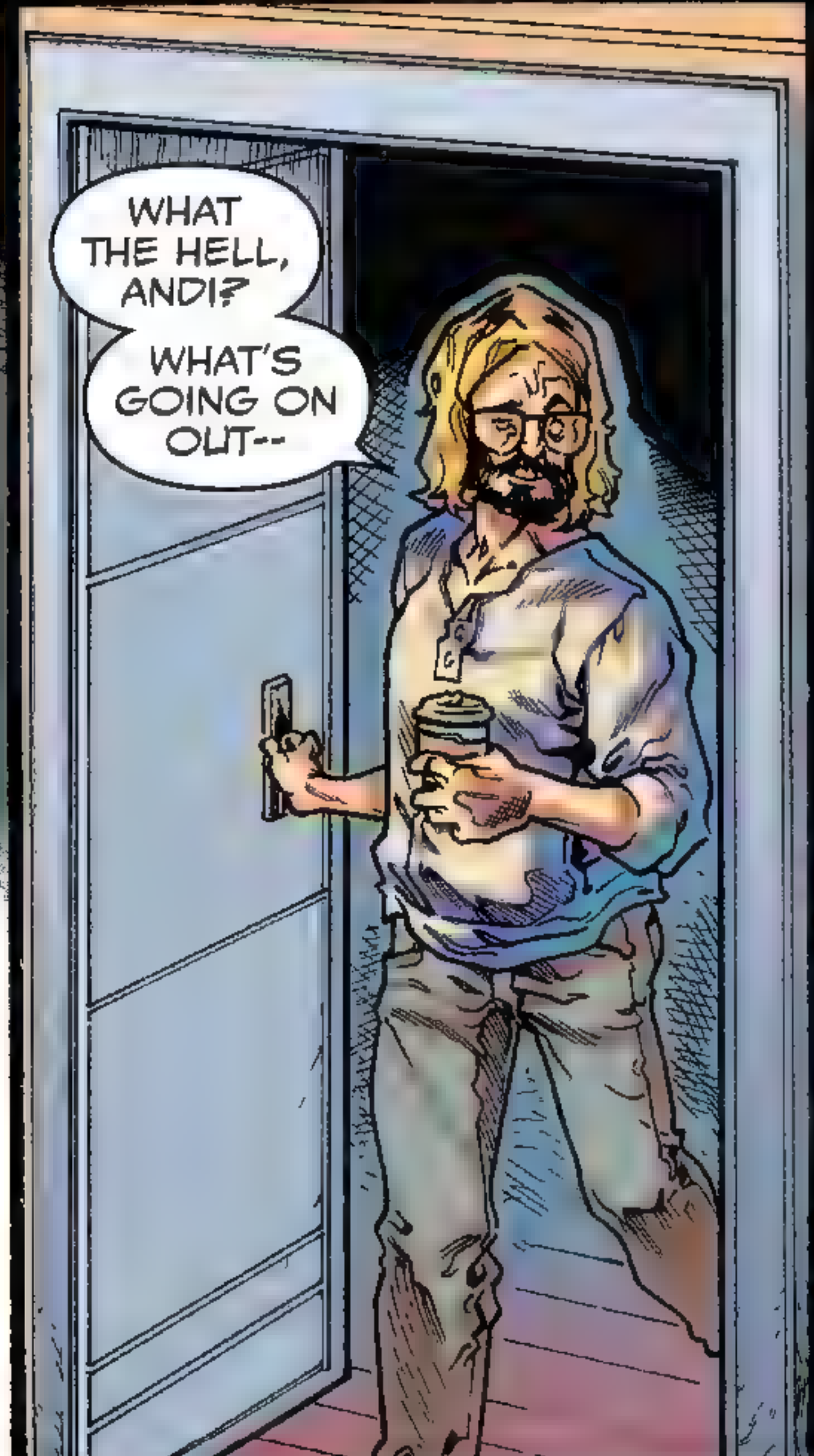


THEY ALWAYS DO

PART OF YOU!

YOU'LL NEVER BE FREE!

NEVER!

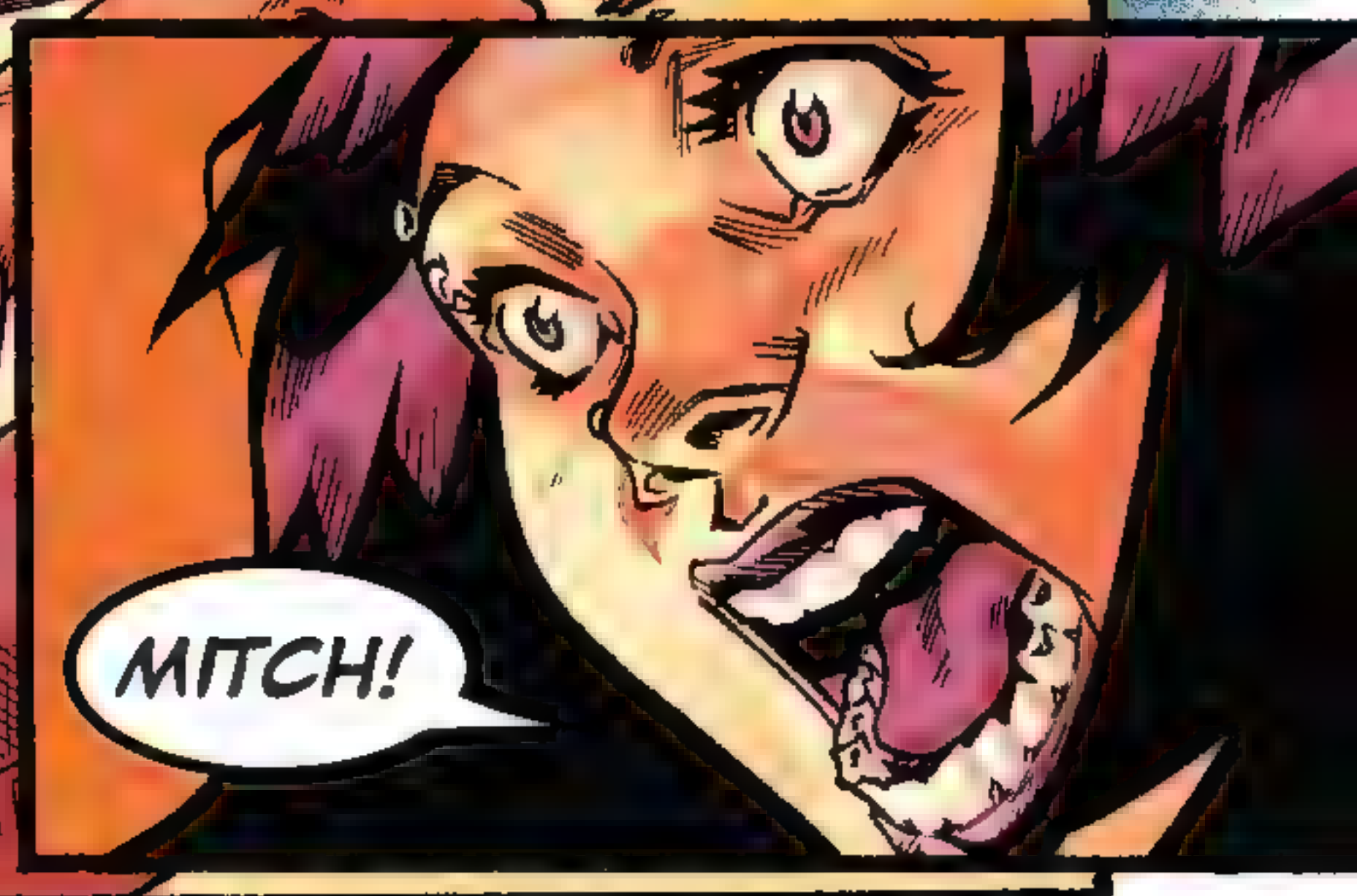


WHAT THE HELL, ANDI?

WHAT'S GOING ON OUT--

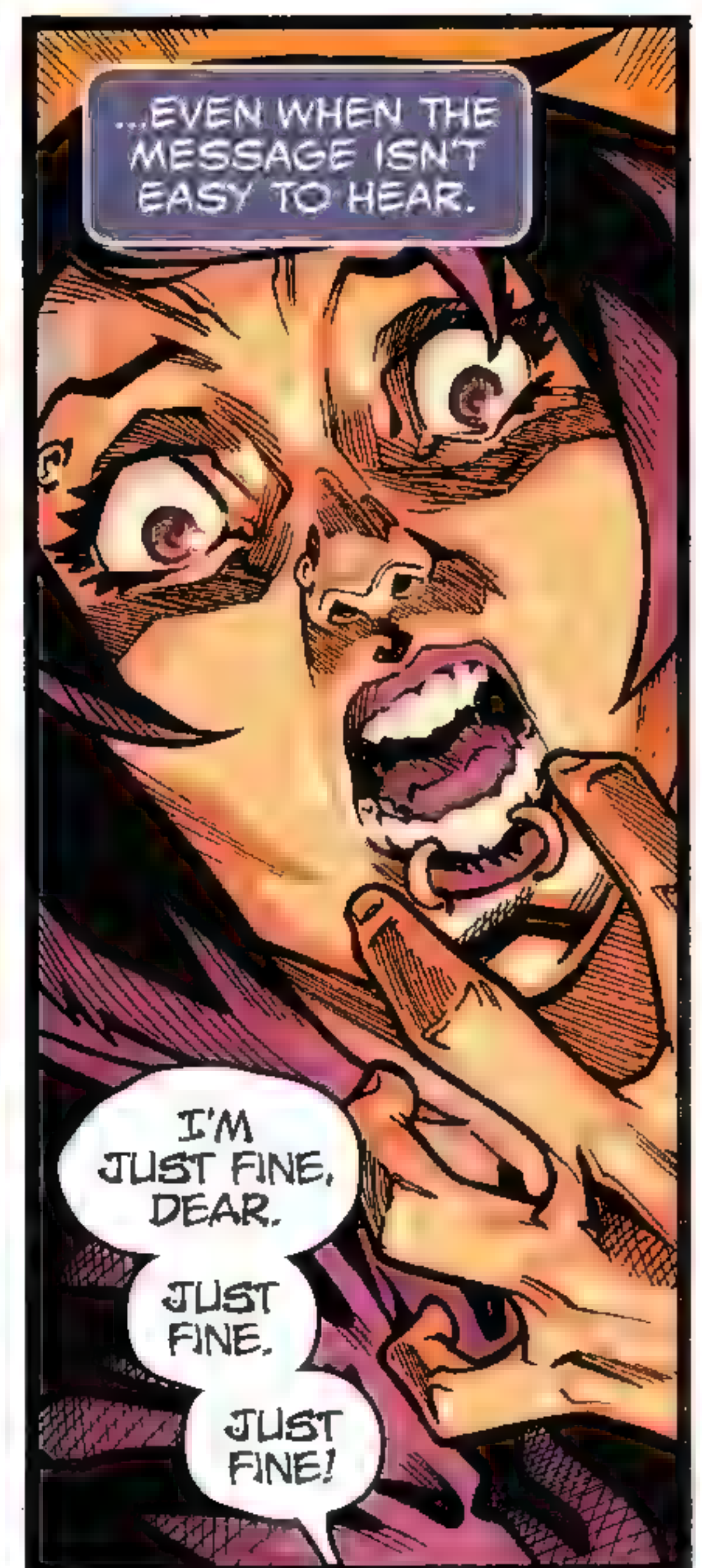


HRRRGGK!



MITCH!







JUST FINE!



NOT REAL

N-NO.

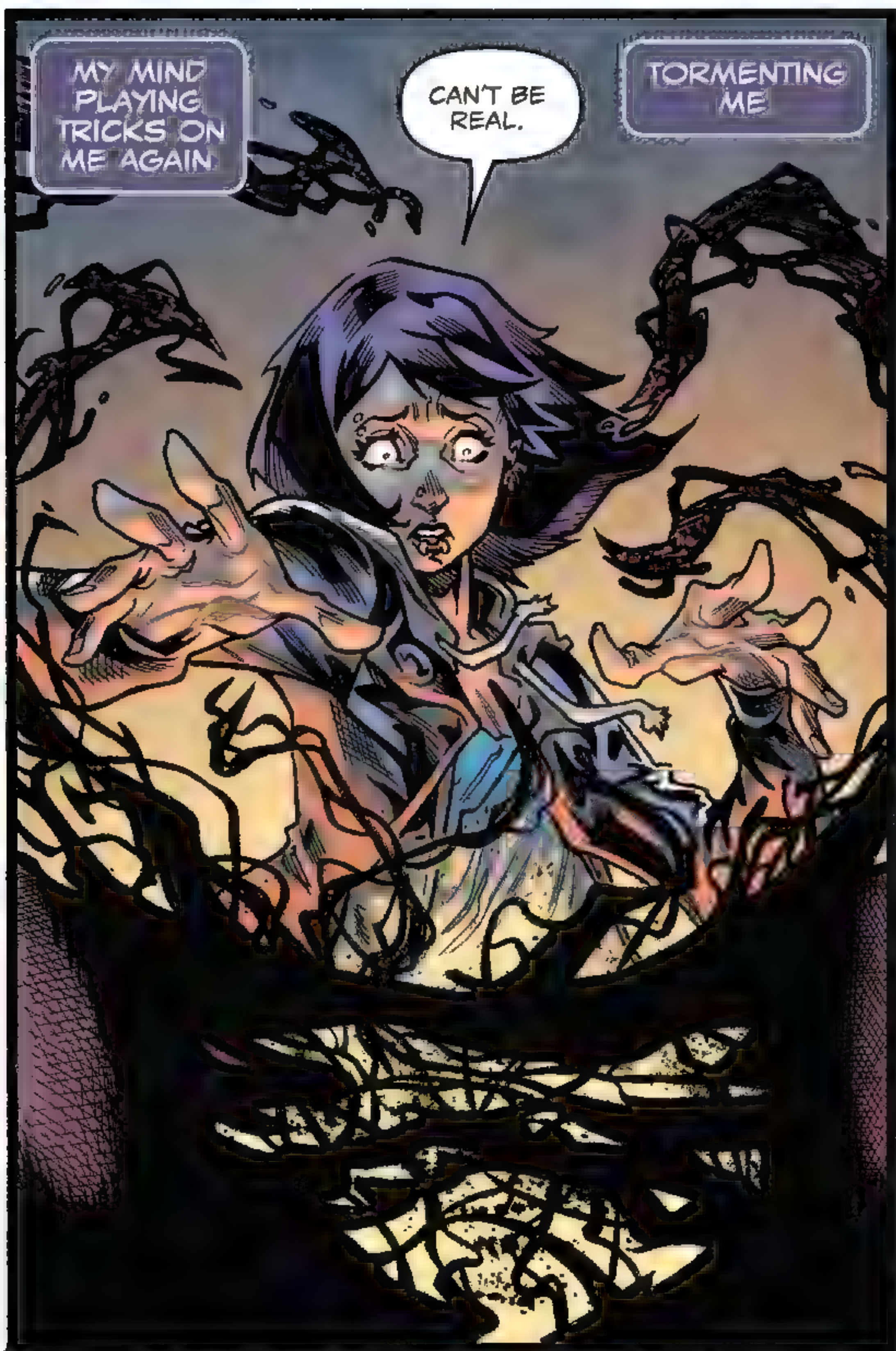
JUST ANOTHER HALLUCINATION.



C'MERE, ANDI.

GIVE AUNT SARAH A KISS!

A KISS!



MY MIND PLAYING TRICKS ON ME AGAIN.

CAN'T BE REAL.

TORMENTING ME

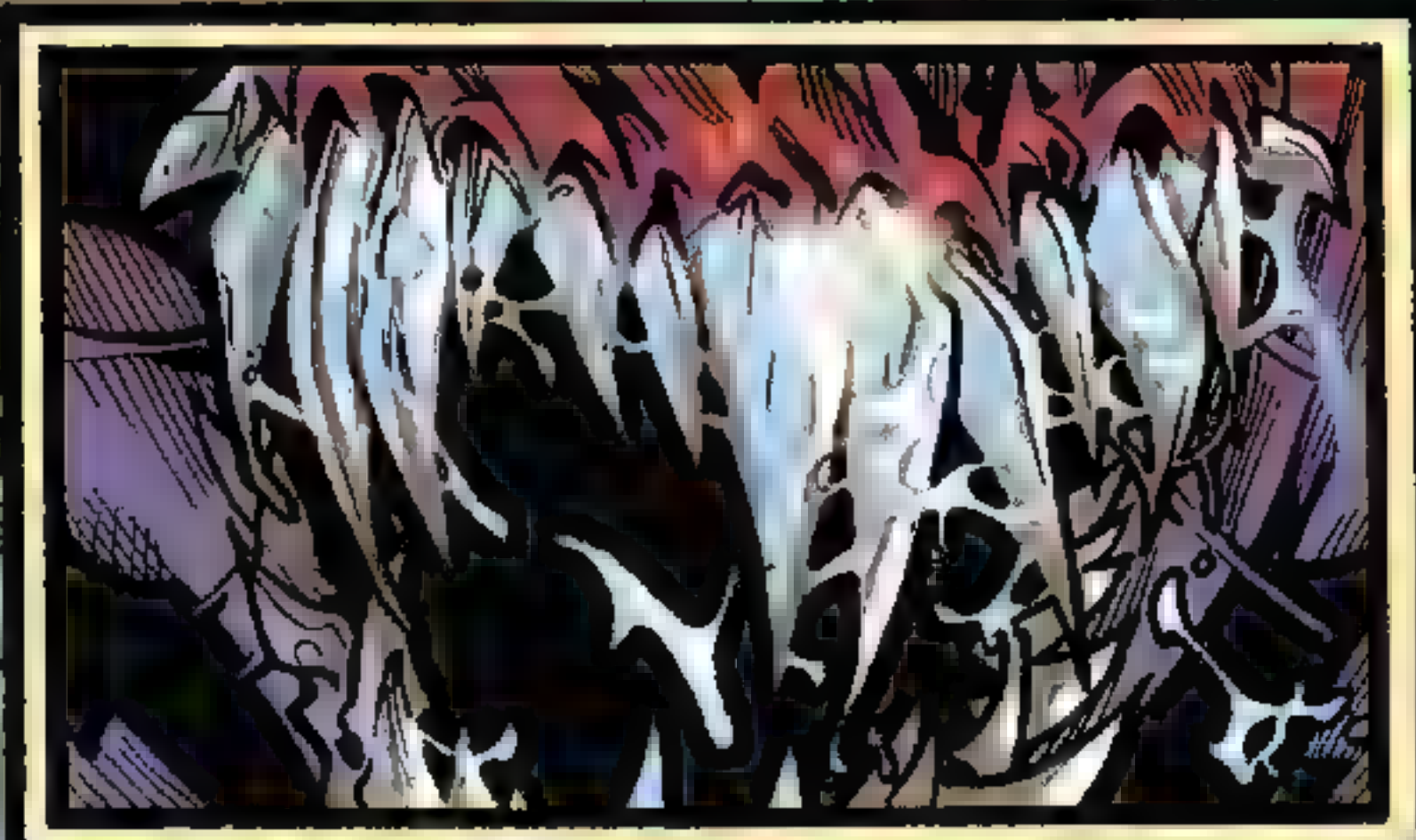
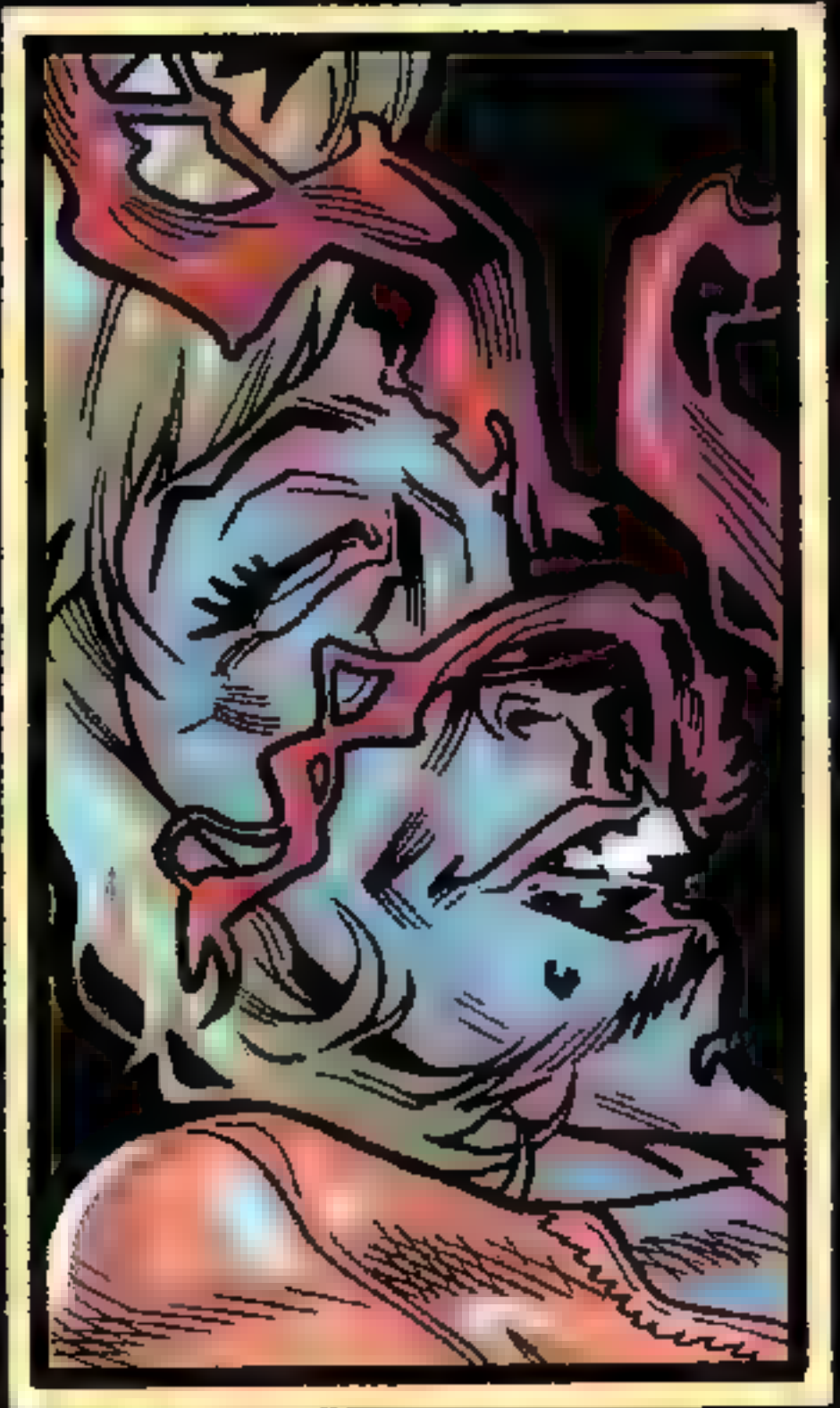


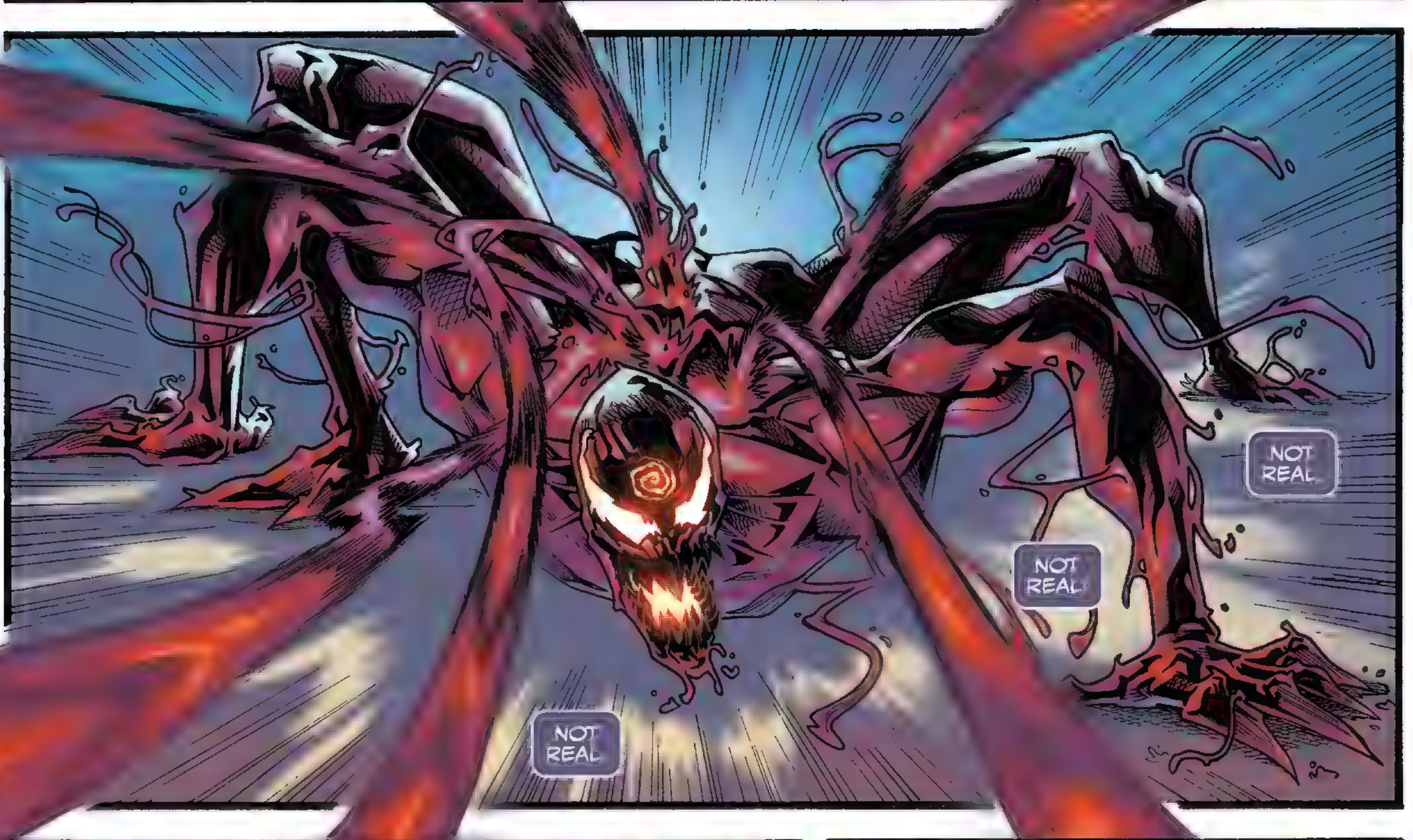
OH, IT'S REAL GIRLIE!

THIS AIN'T NO DREAM!

HERE

LET
CARNAGE PINCH
YOU AND SEE IF
YOU WAKE
UP!









I DO THE ONLY THING I CAN.

I RUN.

THAT'S CARNAGE!

HE'S A MANIAC!

HE'LL KILL EVERYONE!

EVERYONE HE SEES!

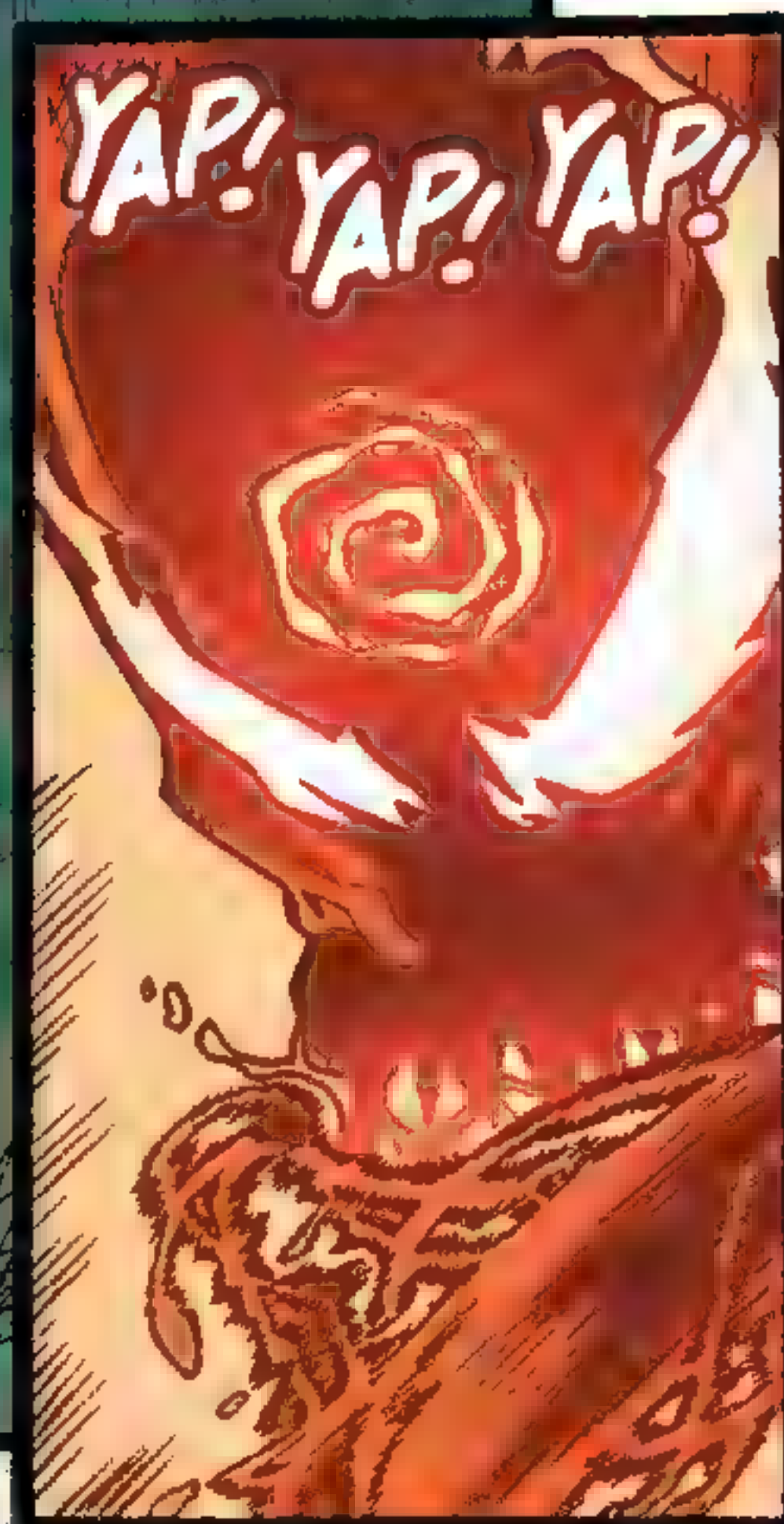
AND I CAN'T FIGHT HIM!



DRAW HIM AWAY FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD

LURE HIM

THEN WHAT?



I'M ALONE.

COACH...

...I WISH YOU WERE HERE...

YOU'D KNOW WHAT TO DO.

YOU'D DAMN SURE COOK UP SOME KIND OF HAIL MARY.

GOTCHA!
YOU CAN'T SLIP AWAY!

I CAN SMELL THE SYMBIOTE DEEP DOWN IN YOUR MARROW!

TIME FOR LAST WORDS, GIRL.

R-RISE...



"...MONSTERS OF EVIL!"

DUNNO WHY CARNAGE CAME FOR ME

DUNNO HOW HE TRACKED ME... HOW HE FOUND ME

...BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW ME

HE DIDN'T COUNT ON MY CURRENT CONNECTION TO HELL.

HE DIDN'T COUNT ON

MY ABILITY TO SUMMON A BUNCH OF DEVIL-MONSTERS TO FIGHT BY MY SIDE.

DAMN, GIRL YOU'RE FREAKY.

MY MONSTERS

FWOOOOOSH

BIG AND DUMB AND DEMON-POSSESSED

REEEEEEAAARGH!

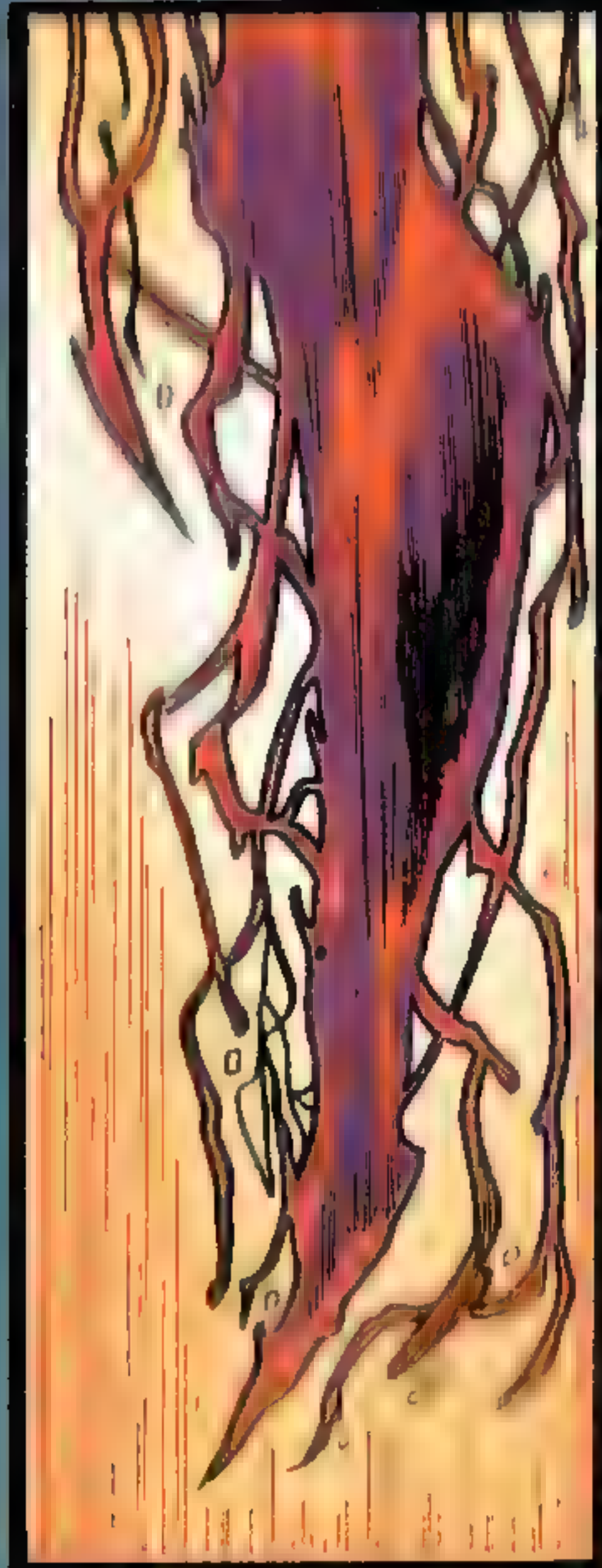
AND THEY ANSWER TO ME.

YEEEEAAAAAGH!

WHAM

N-NO! NO MORE! YOU'RE KILLING ME!

YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT.
BUT YOU'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT.
I'M MARKED.
CURSED.
BY THE DEVIL.



HOW...?

THE FLAMES...
HELLFIRE

PSYCH!

HEHEHEH

...SHOULD TURN
THE SYMBIOTE
TO ASH...

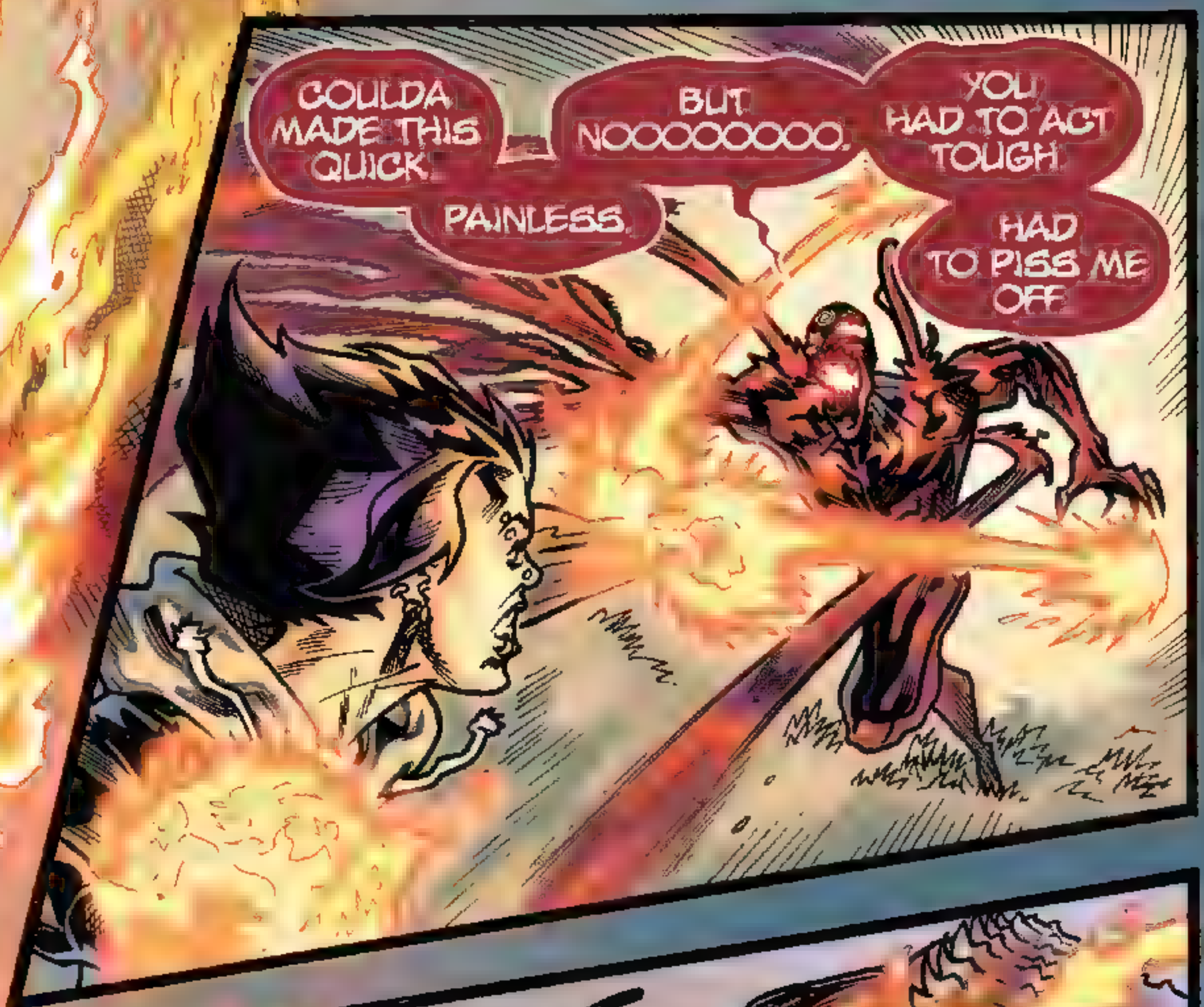


NICE
TRY, KID

BUT I'M
AFRAID FIRE
DOESN'T BOTHER ME
ALL THAT MUCH
ANYMORE



YOU AIN'T
THE ONLY
ONE WHO'S
CURSED.



COULDA
MADE THIS
QUICK.

PAINLESS

BUT
NOOOOOOOO.

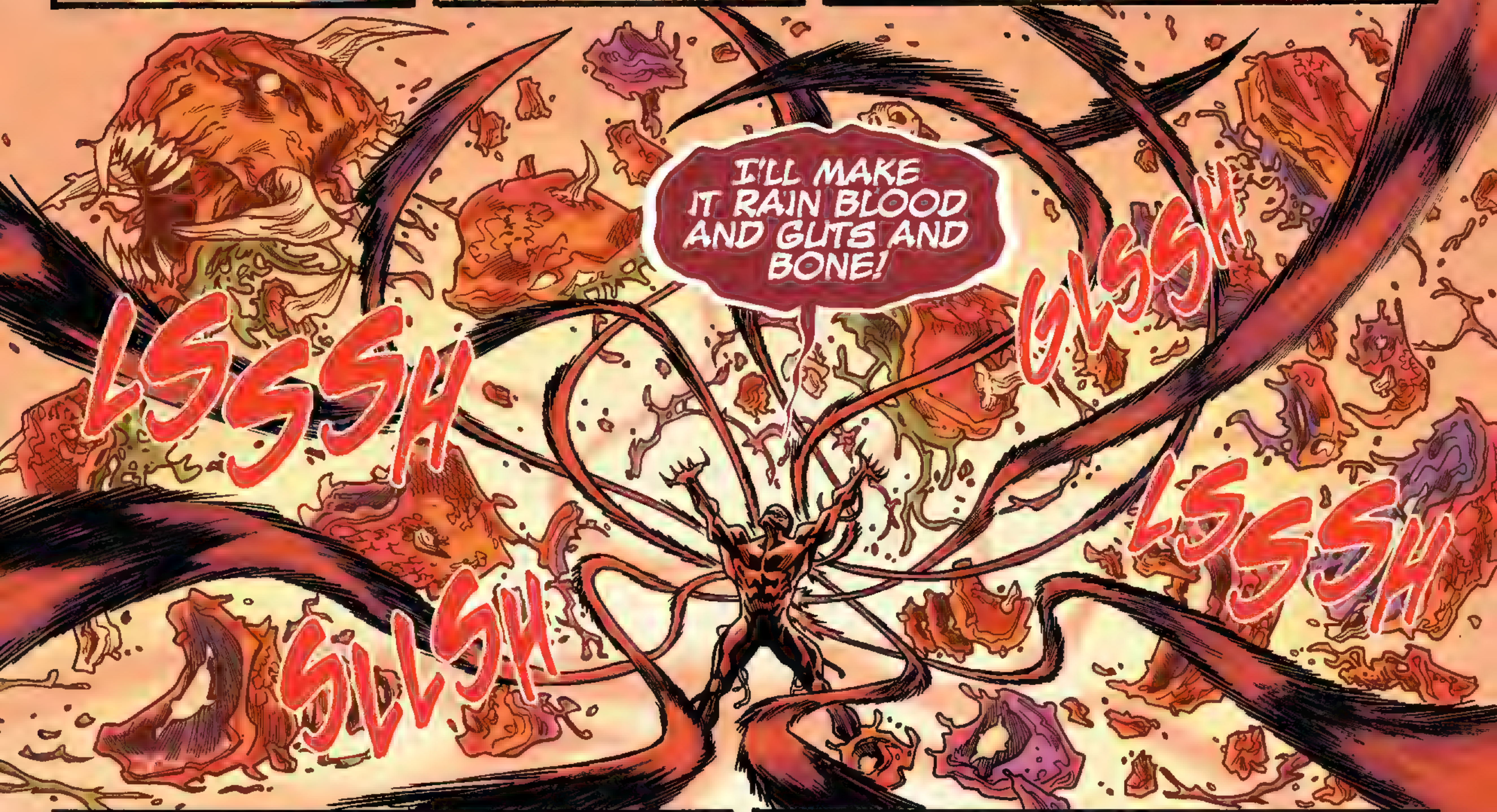
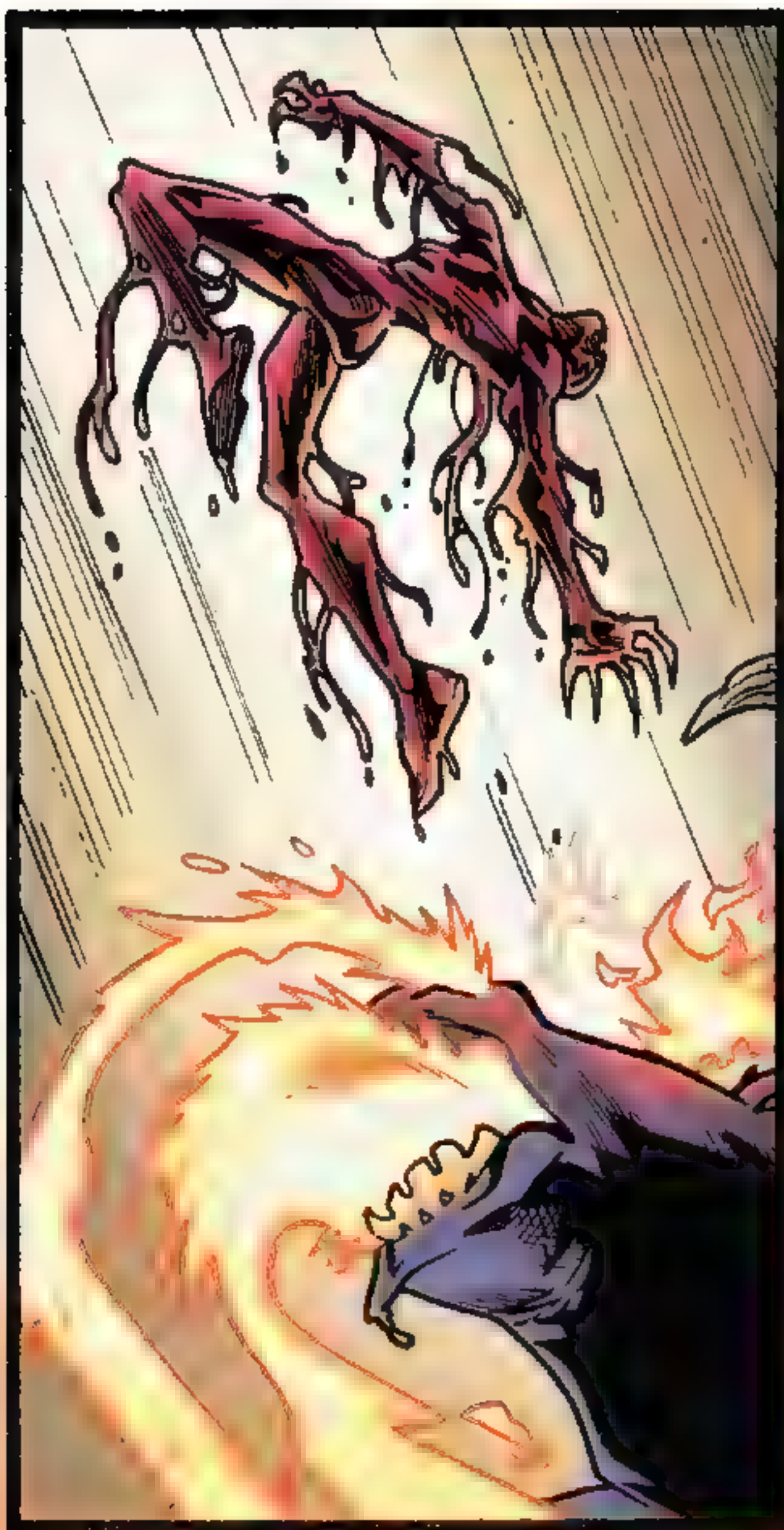
YOU
HAD TO ACT
TOUGH.

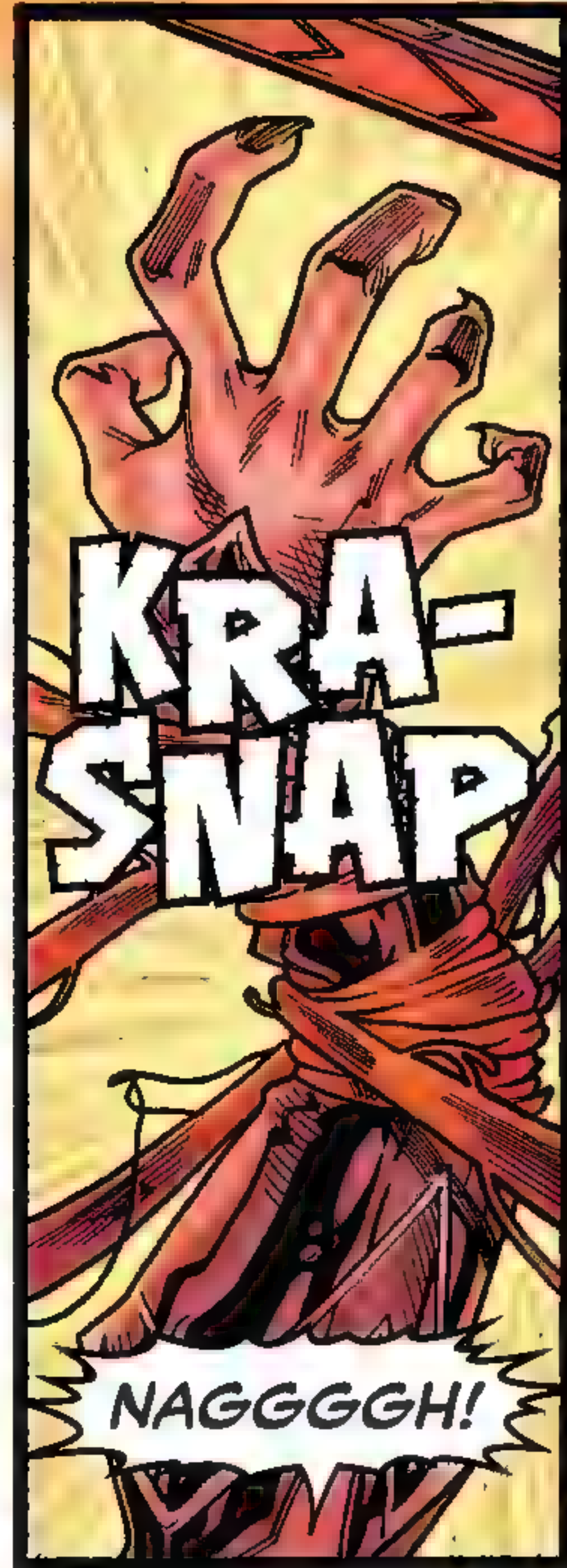
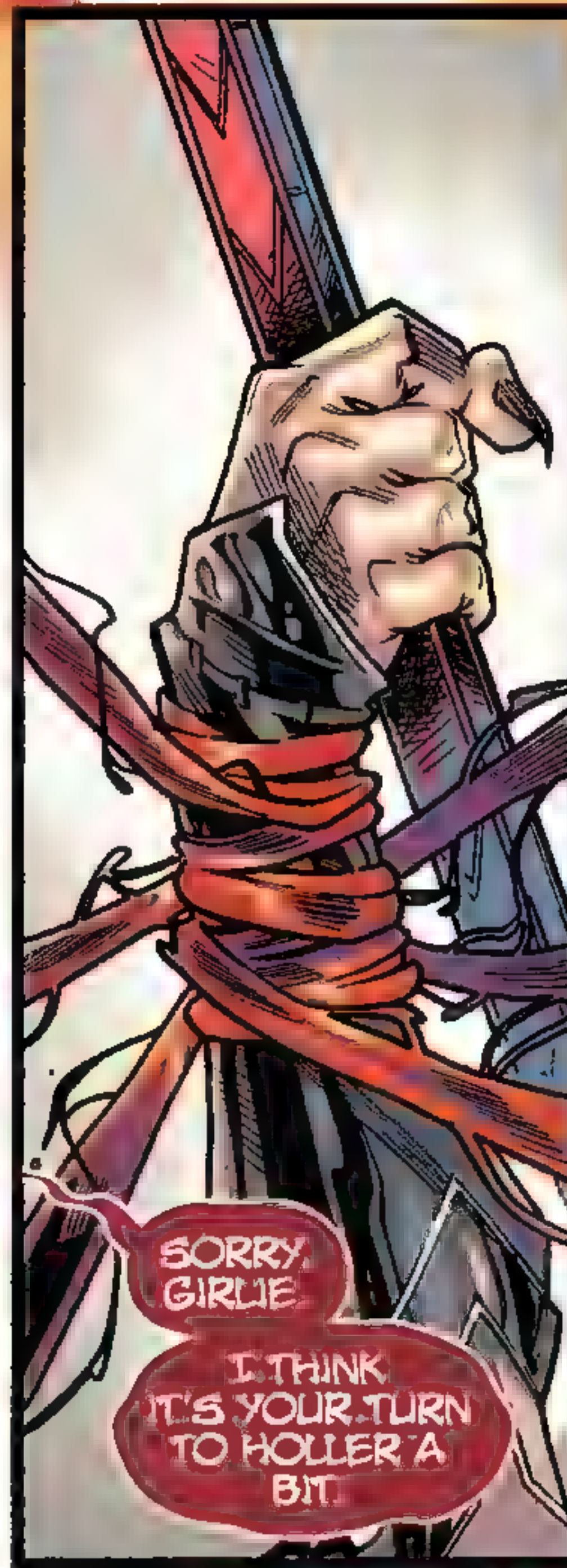
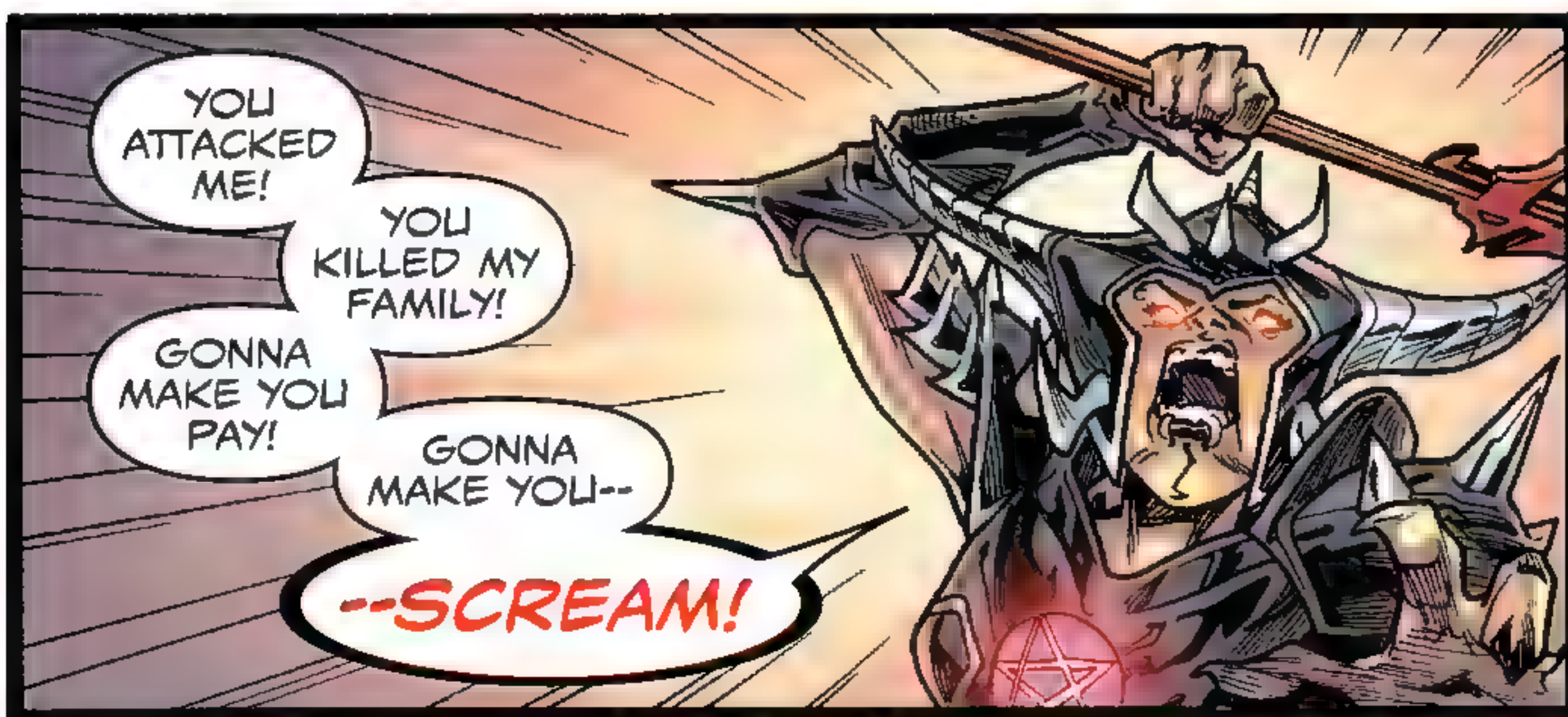
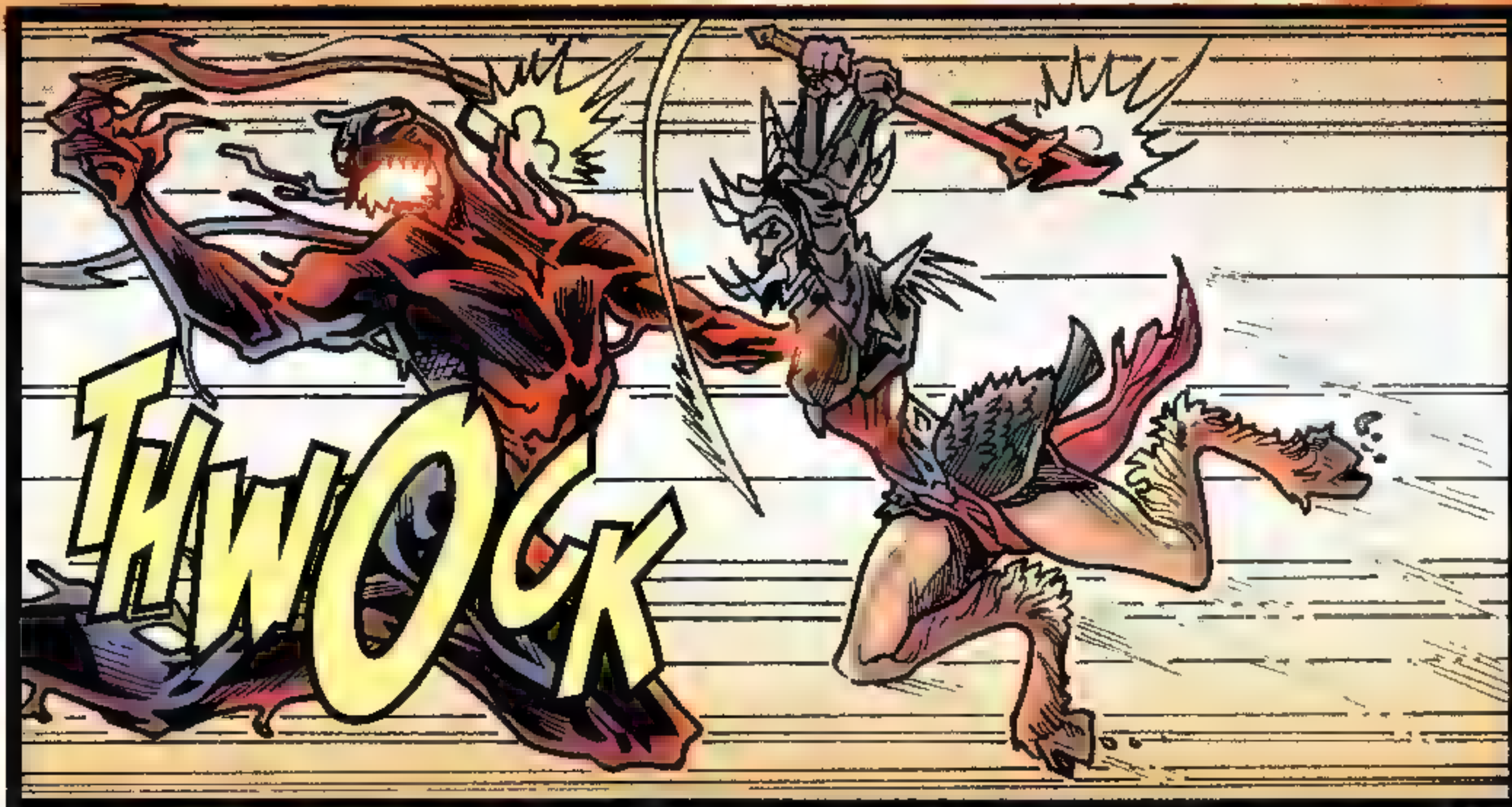
HAD
TO PISS ME
OFF.

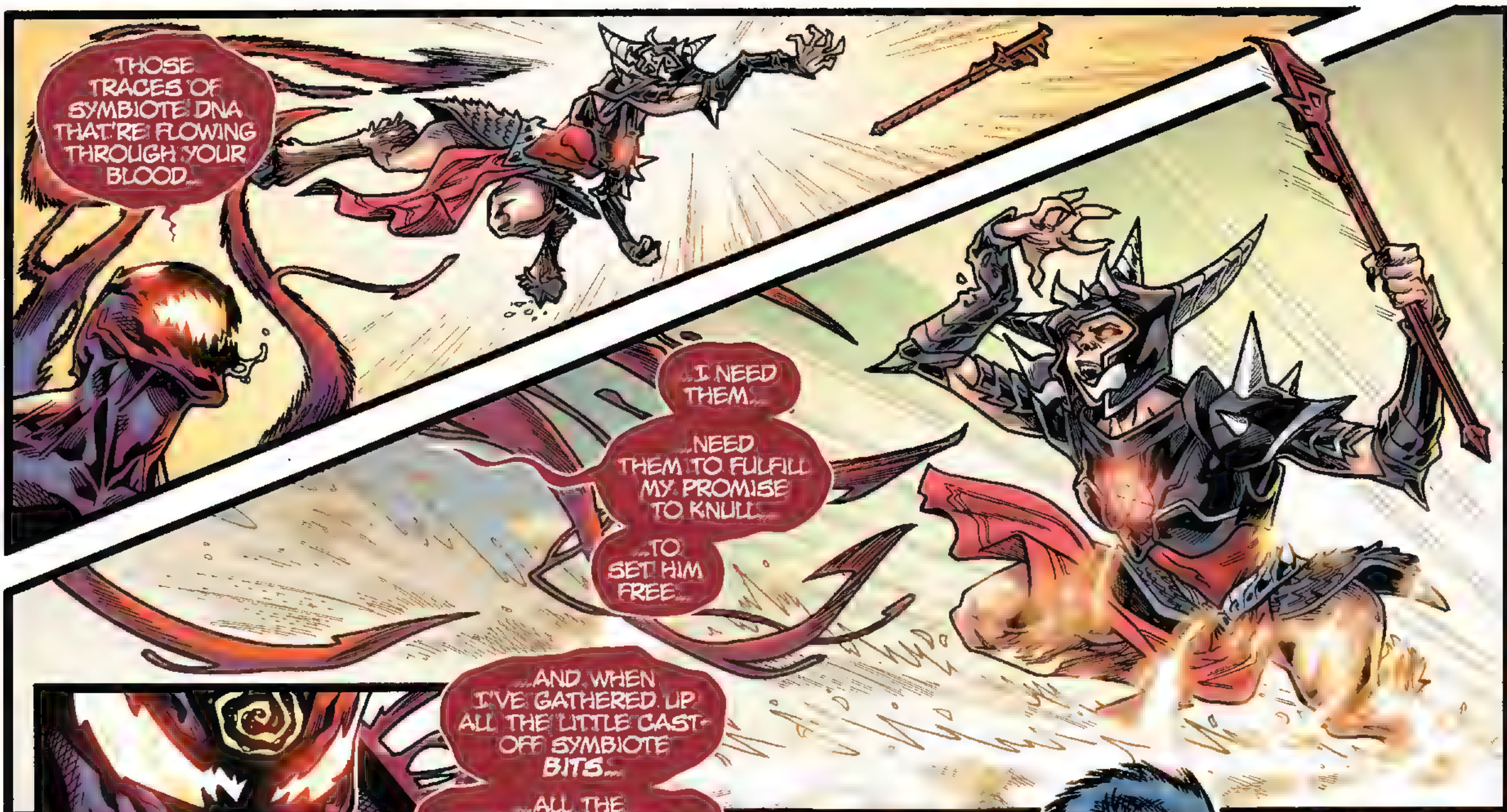


EH...

THRU-
THUP-
THRUP-
THRUP







THOSE
TRACES OF
SYMBIOTE DNA
THAT'RE FLOWING
THROUGH YOUR
BLOOD...

I NEED
THEM...

...NEED
THEM TO FULFILL
MY PROMISE
TO KNULL...

...TO
SET HIM
FREE...

...AND WHEN
I'VE GATHERED UP
ALL THE 'LITTLE CAST-
OFF SYMBIOTE
BITS...

...ALL THE
EXCREMENT LEFT IN
YOUR CELLS...

...IN ALL THE
OTHER HAS-BEENS AND
WANNABES...

...KNULL AND
ME ARE GONNA
WASH THE WORLD
IN BLOOD!

WHATEVER
IT IS YOU'RE
DOING...

...WHATEVER
INSANITY THAT'S
GOT YOU ALL
RILED UP...

...IT
BROUGHT YOU
TO ME...

...AND I'M
SENDING YOU
TO HELL.



HAVEN'T
YOU BEEN
LISTENING?

YOU THINK
DEVILS SCARE
ME?

THINK
AGAIN!

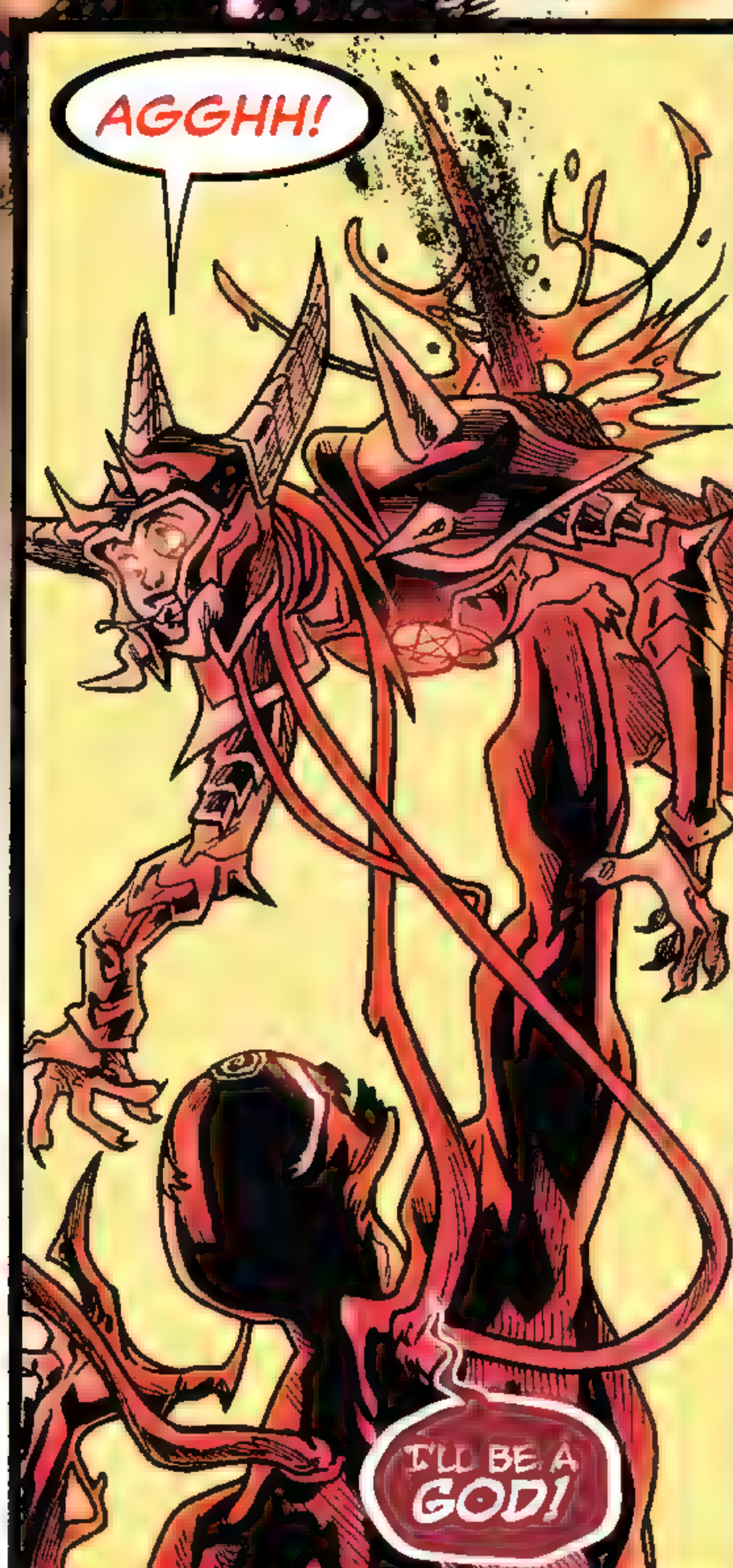


I GIVE DEVILS NIGHTMARES!



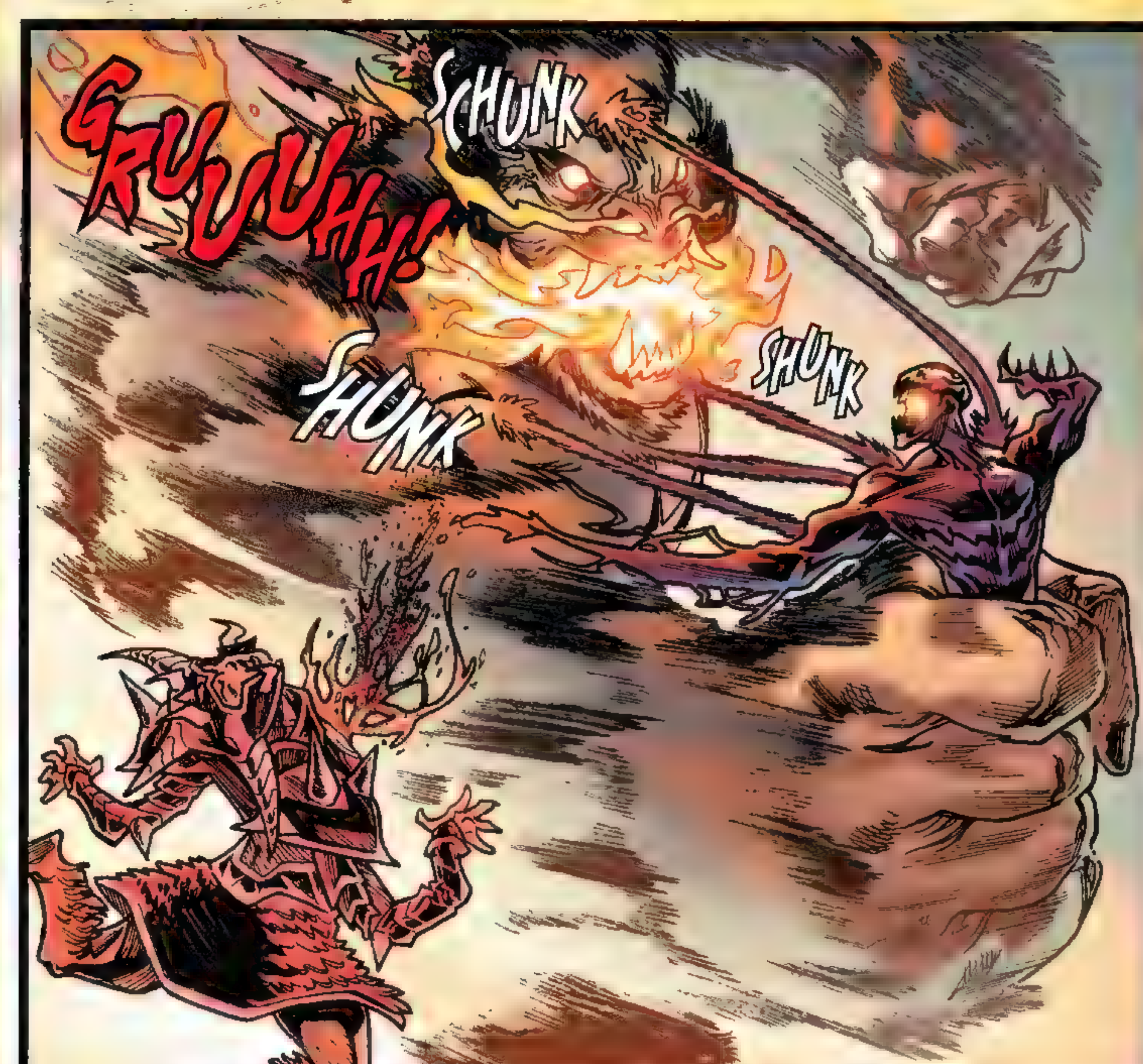
AND EVERY TIME I EAT ONE OF YOU LOSERS-- YOU FAKERS--UP I GET A LITTLE JOIT!

SOON ENOUGH, I WON'T JUST BE GOOD OL' CARNAGE.



AGGHH!

I'LL BE A GOD!



GRUUUUH!

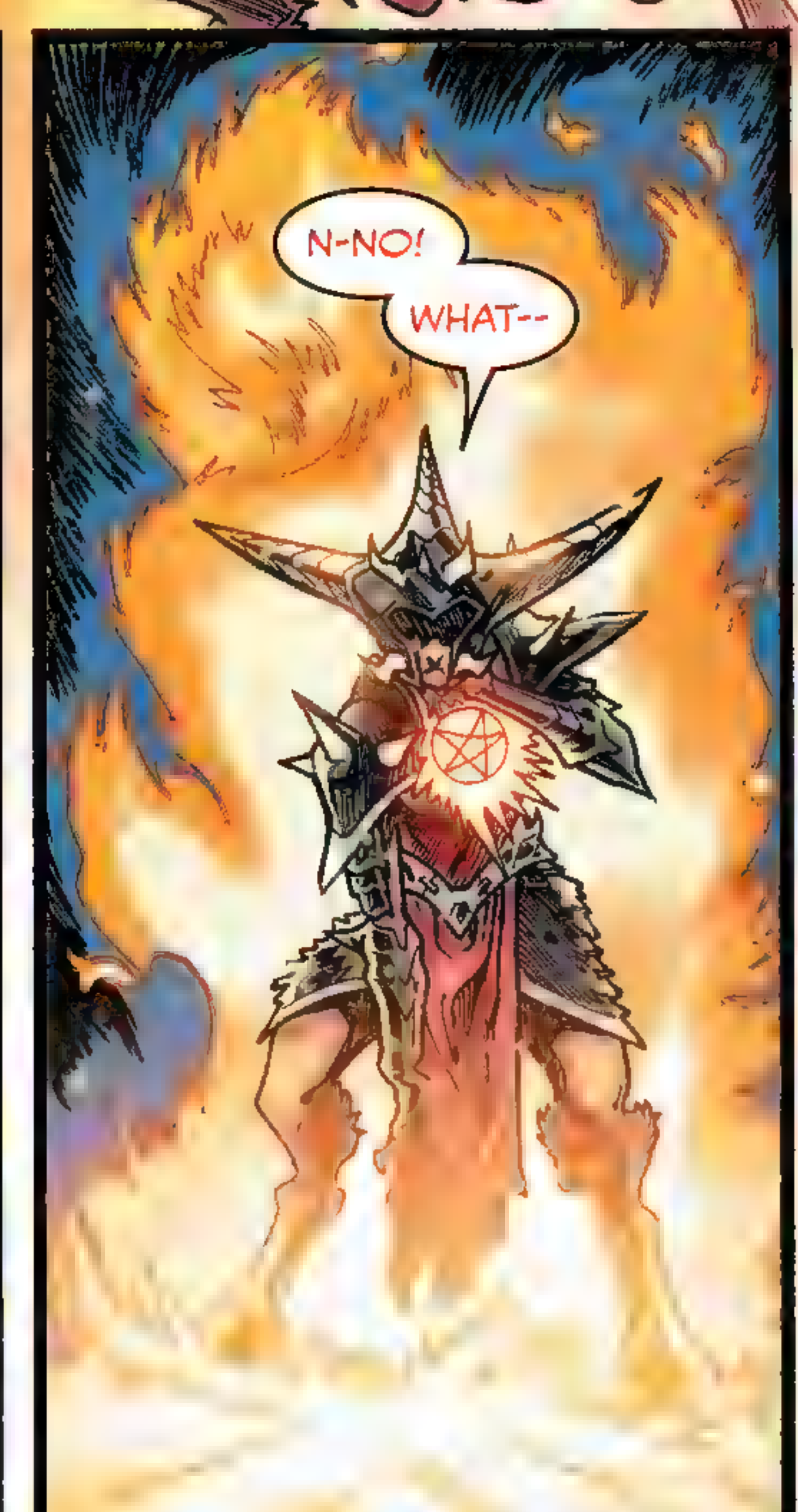
SHUNK

SHUNK

SHUNK



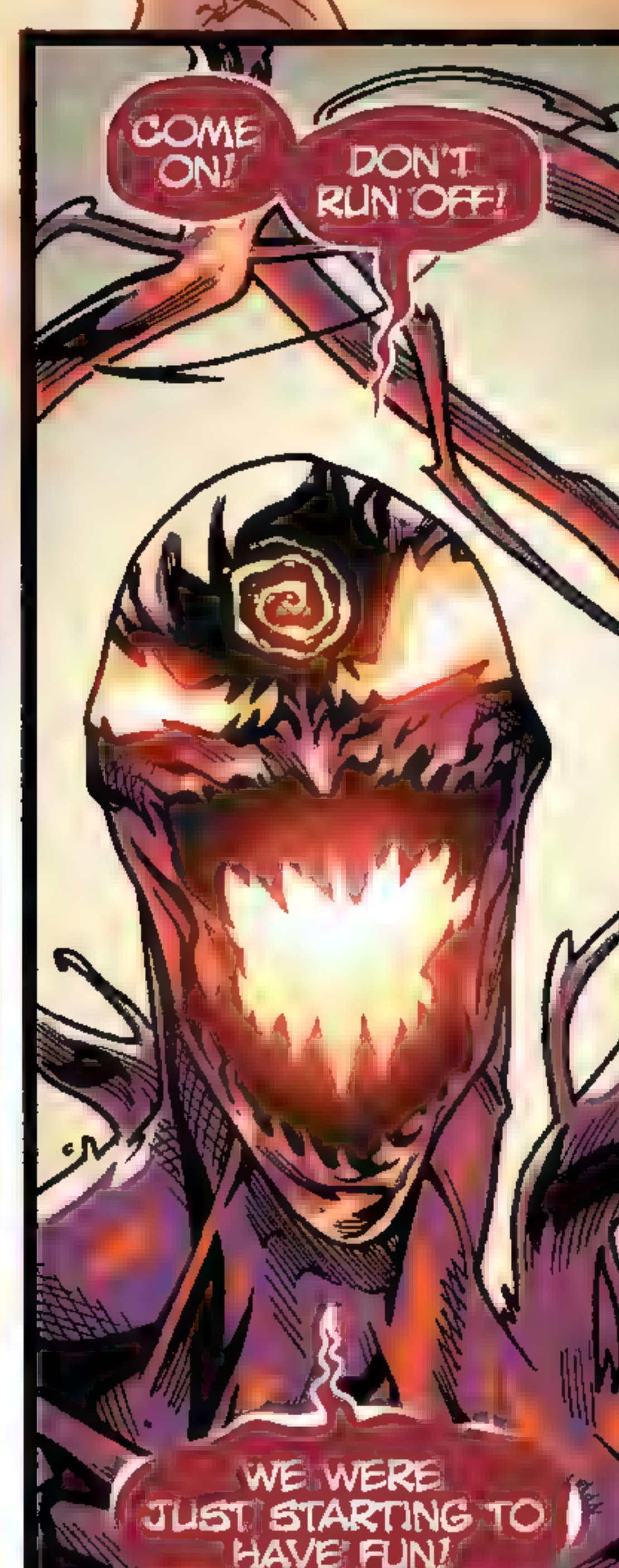
H-H-HOLD HIM.
HOLD HIM.
LET ME--



N-NO! WHAT--



FWOOOSH



COME ON!
DON'T RUN OFF!

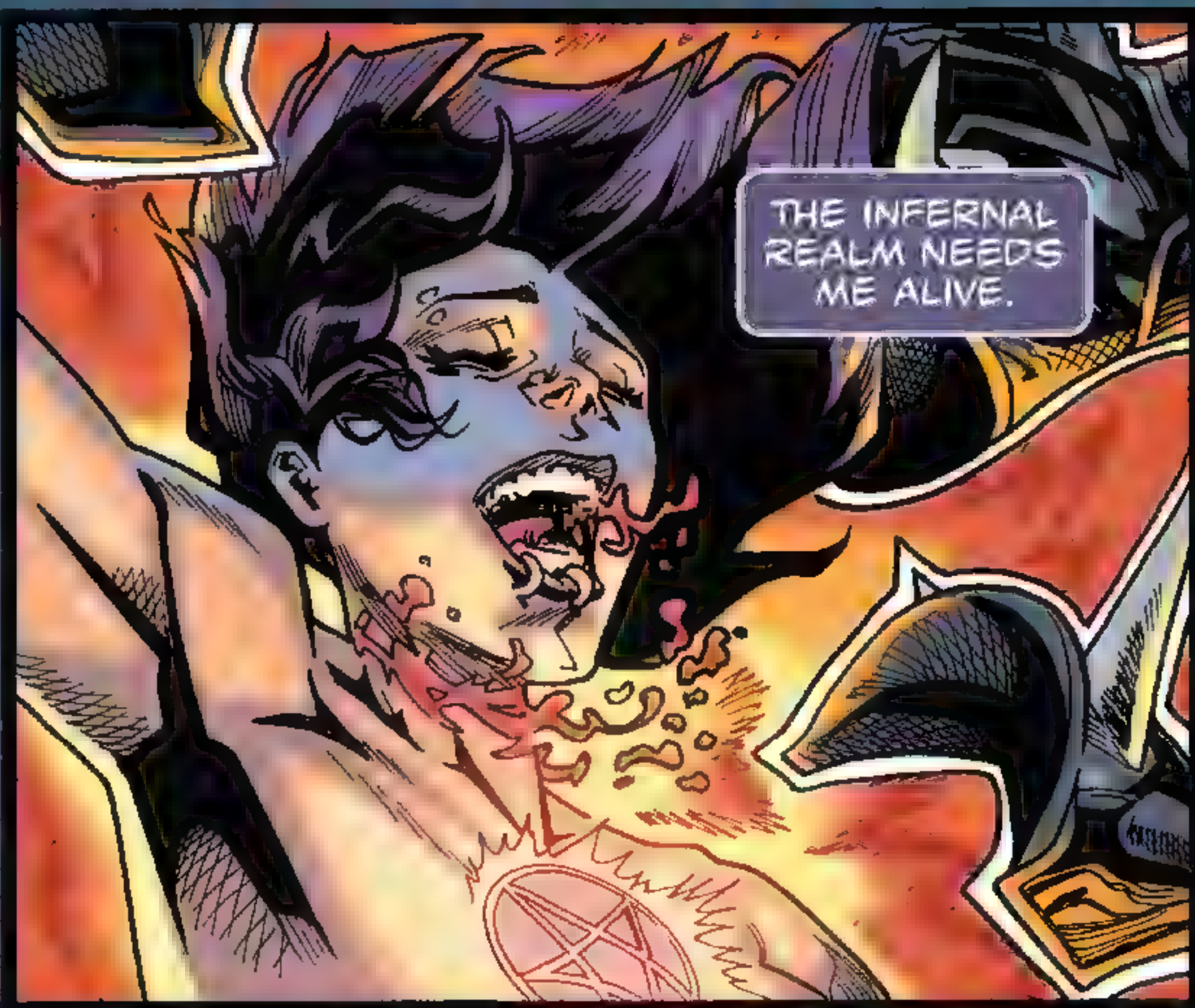
WE WERE JUST STARTING TO HAVE FUN!



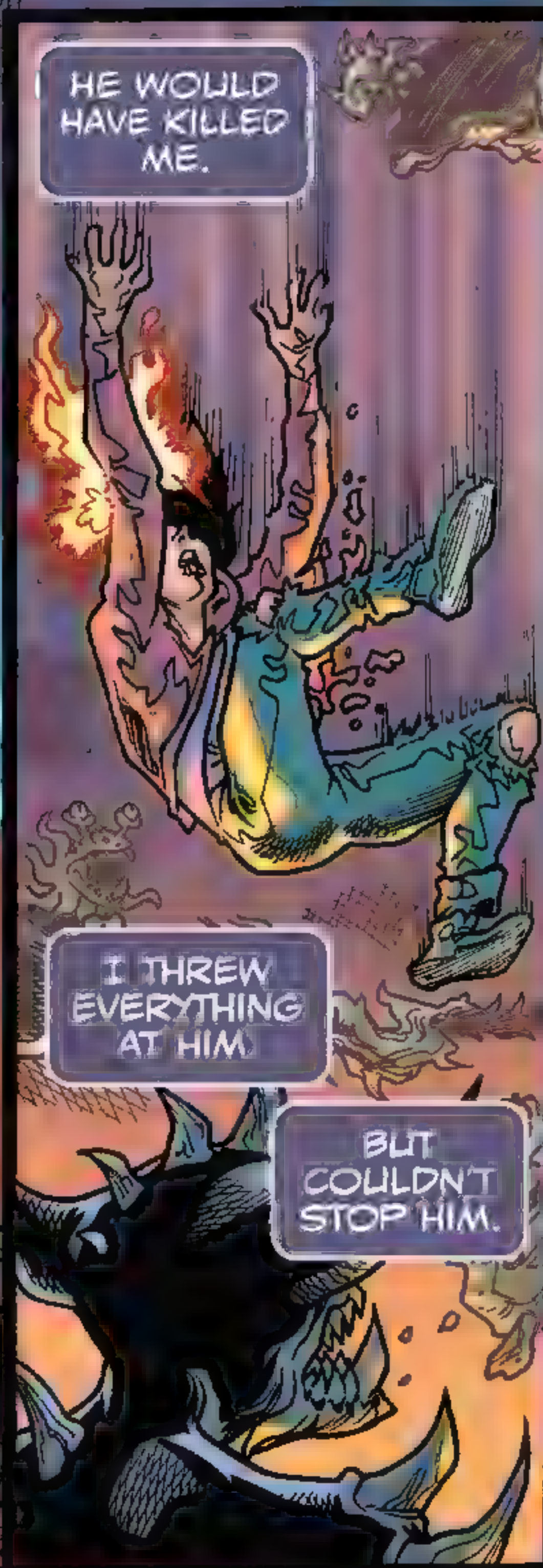
HELL-
MARK

SOMEHOW...
TELEPORTED
ME AWAY.

DEMONIC SELF-
PRESERVATION.



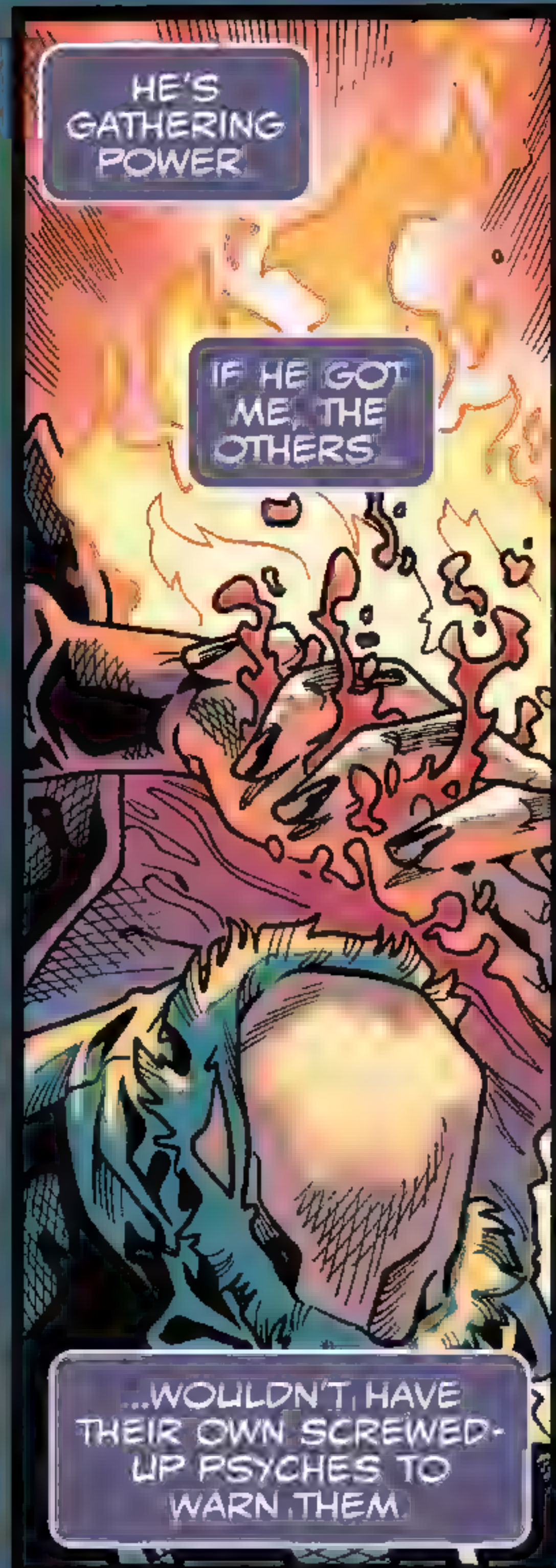
THE INFERNAL
REALM NEEDS
ME ALIVE.



HE WOULD
HAVE KILLED
ME.

I THREW
EVERYTHING
AT HIM.

BUT
COULDN'T
STOP HIM.



HE'S
GATHERING
POWER.

IF HE GOT
ME, THE
OTHERS

...WOULDN'T HAVE
THEIR OWN SCREWED-
UP PSYCHES TO
WARN THEM.



AT LEAST...THIS
WAY...I'LL BE ABLE TO
FIGHT ANOTHER DAY.



AND JUST LIKE THAT
I'M NO LONGER FALLING
THROUGH HELL

INSTEAD
I'M IN

NEW
YORK

VENOM'S
HERE

THE OTHER
VENOM



EDDIE
BROCK

I'VE GOTTA
FIND HIM

WARN HIM
ABOUT
CARNAGE



WARN HIM THAT CARNAGE
IS COMING FOR PEOPLE
WITH A CONNECTION TO
THE SYMBIOTES

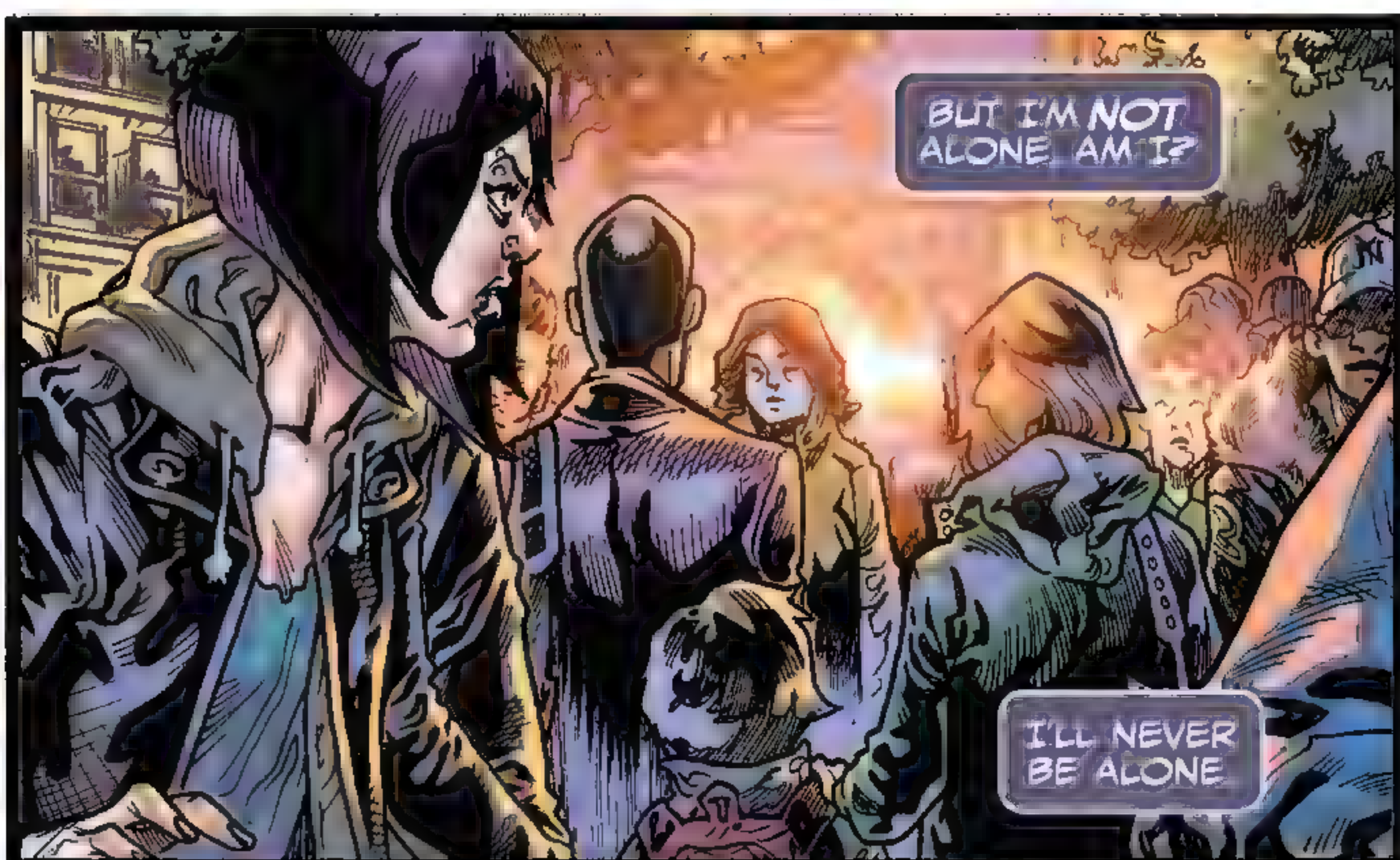
WE'VE GOTTA STOP HIM



WE

I CAN'T
DO IT ON
MY OWN

I CAN'T
STOP HIM
ALONE



BUT I'M NOT
ALONE, AM I?

I'LL NEVER
BE ALONE



EVEN THOUGH
I LEFT CARNAGE
IN PHILLY...

...I CAN
STILL FEEL
HIM...

...CLINGING
TO ME...

HUH.
LITTLE
SNOT THINKS
SHE CAN RUN
AND HIDE?



DON'T SHE
KNOW I CAN FIND
HER WHEREVER
SHE GOES?

...FOLLOWING
ME...

...LIKE A BAD
DREAM I
JUST CAN'T
SHAKE...



...LIKE
PHANTOM
PAIN.

DON'T SHE
KNOW SHE'S JUST
LEADING ME WHERE
I WAS **PLANNING**
ON GOING
ANYHOW?

**TO BE CONTINUED IN
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE!**



Eddie's Clubhouse

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Hello in here, out there, around the world and aboard all the ships at sea! Editor Devin Lewis reporting to you live and in print from Marvel HQ in the heart of New York!

HOO BOY! We're not even two weeks into June and this is already one of the best summers EVER!

As you Mighty Marvelites are already aware, the WAR OF THE REALMS touched down in Marvel's New York this past April, and with it came calamity, chaos and comic book craziness of the highest order--including right here in the pages of VENOM!

We were fortunate enough to be joined by longtime members of the Venom family **Cullen Bunn**, **Iban Coello** and **Andres Mossa** for our three-part WAR OF THE REALMS tie-in story, and boy did they knock it out of the park! At least, that's the only logical conclusion if the letters we've gotten from you readers out there in the Venomverse are to be believed!

We'll get to those letters from you Venomaniacs in just a few, but first we've GOT to talk about the next big thing that's on the way from your pals here at Symbiote HQ! As I type this, the world has got VENOM FEVER all over again, as we barrel towards the VENOM event of 2019--ABSOLUTE CARNAGE!

We're FINALLY through the month of May, which means FREE COMIC BOOK DAY 2019 is behind us and ABSOLUTE CARNAGE is officially underway!

As a matter of fact, Carnage's symbiotic tendrils have already begun to weave their way through the Marvel Universe and into some of your favorite titles! Through the month of June, we've dropped unique, single-page stories on the final pages of a bunch of non-symbiote Marvel titles--but Marvel readers are some of the most eagle-eyed fans out there, so I bet you guys knew that already!

But if you DIDN'T, here's a handy list of some of the books you may want to check the back issues for:

JUNE

VENOM #15

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #24

DEADPOOL #14

SYMBIOTE SPIDER-MAN #3

FANTASTIC FOUR #11

And be sure to keep your eyes peeled all through this month, too, because there are more of these stories to come--and every one of them will provide a clue about Carnage's biggest targets...so don't miss 'em!

ITEM: But those one-pagers are just the beginning, True Believers! We here at the House of Ideas have been hard at work with some of the best creators in the business getting a whole host of symbiotic stories ready for YOU (or the symbiote-lover in your family)!

And the first two terrifying titles we'll be releasing are **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM** and **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SEPARATION ANXIETY!**

From Cullen Bunn and Gerardo Sandoval comes **AC: SCREAM #1!** A three-issue limited series tying directly into the events of ABSOLUTE CARNAGE, SCREAM is a brutal adventure through New York's underbelly...as Carnage's forces swarm every alleyway and street they can find!

SCREAM has been a favorite character of mine since I was a kid and saw her in the Spider-Man attraction at Universal's Islands of Adventure, and revisiting the symbiote in this event is one of the most exciting things to happen in my career!

(Just ask Spider-Editor Nick Lowe--I've been trying to get Scream into Venom's orbit for YEARS!)

BUT WHO WILL BE THE SYMBIOTE'S HOST?! HOW WILL IT DEAL WITH THE DOPPELGANGERS STORMING MANHATTAN?! AND WILL IT BE ABLE TO RESIST THE CORRUPTING INFLUENCE OF KNULL?!

There's only one way to find out--pick SCREAM up next month!

AC: SEPARATION ANXIETY, meanwhile, is just about as different a book from SCREAM as you could find! Written by horror scribe Clay McLeod Chapman and illustrated by the one and only Brian Level, **SEPARATION ANXIETY** is a quieter story that takes place in a family's home in middle America. In spite of that quiet setting, this has gotta be one of the most visceral, sharp and scary stories I've ever read. Not just in comics but in all of fiction! Add Brian's insanely beautiful, dynamic and--at times--grotesque artwork, and you've got a recipe for one killer one-shot.

Both **SCREAM** and **SEPARATION ANXIETY** are on sale on **August 14th!** Be sure to ask your shop to hold a copy of both of 'em for you so you don't miss out!

ALL RIGHT! Enough plugging. Let's get to your letters! We'll start south of the border with a note from Miguel, a fan in Mexico!

Hi there!

This is the very first time I'm writing a letter to Marvel, but I've been a comics fan all my life.

I met Spider-Man, Venom and the entire Marvel Universe with the great 1994 Spider-Man animated series, and what a rush since then! The things I can tell about the heroes, villains and how they shocked me and shaped my life are endless. Those stories still inspire me.

And the thing with Venom is that he is such an amazing character: strong, brave, ruthless, scary, smart, even obsessive, making him an enemy from your worst nightmares. He also looks great--that black costume with a big white spider is incredible. That's why he is among my favorite characters alongside Wolverine, Batman, Spider-Man, Predator, Alien, etc. I love him!!!

Way back in 2016 I found the VENOM: SPACE KNIGHT series and I was amazed and very happy to get regular additions to my collection (in Mexico, VENOM was rare for a while). Also the space theme seemed to be something fresh... Strange, because he is an alien! The writing of Robbie Thompson and the art of Ariel Olivetti, Kim Jacinto and Gerardo Sandoval defined an era to me, and when the series ended I was a little sad because I loved the whole story.

Then Mike Costa's run started and I liked it a lot. It was more classic in some ways. Introducing Lee Price as a cold, bad Venom, the return of Eddie Brock, the rivalry with the Scorpion, the reference of the union between host and suit as a relationship were all simply magical, and with the art of Sandoval, Mark Bagley and Paulo Siqueira, the story marked another era of Venom to me.

This might be something only I understand, but it is indescribable when certain stories relate to a time in your real life, and this Venom story did. So when Mike Costa finished his labor as a writer, I was sad again!

I started reading the work from Donny Cates and Ryan Stegman skeptically.

All I can say now is well done!

The story becomes pretty dark, introducing new elements and twisting the existing ones. I know every person has a way to do their thing, and I'm sure Donny and Ryan will define an era of Venom, just as the talented people before them did.

I hope to don't be so boring with all this! Really, it is just that I was excited about writing and showing my friends that I sent this letter! Hopefully, one day I'll write on the other side, making comics and even drawing, because that is one of my dreams.

In the words of Val Kilmer in *Batman Forever*. Thanks, everybody, keep up the good work. Factory looks great.

Miguel E.
Macuspana, Tabasco, Mexico

Thanks so much for being a loyal reader, Miguel! I know that it can sometimes be difficult to get Marvel comics outside of the U.S., so it really means a lot that you've been a dedicated Venomaniac all these years!

If it really is your dream to make comics (and this is just as true for all you Marvelites as it is for Miguel), the best advice I can give is to **KEEP PRACTICING!** We find new creators to collaborate with all the time and from all over the globe, so as long as you study the craft, do your best work and practice, practice, practice, you may yet join their ranks! Marvel often hosts portfolio reviews at comic conventions around the world where you can submit your work and get an honest critique, so that would be the next step.

It's a real treat to hear that you've enjoyed what Donny and Ryan have been doing, and I can't wait for you to see where we go from here!

First of all, thank you for all the hard work you've done for us fans.

I've always been a fan of Spider-Man comics. Our friendly neighborhood web-slinger never ceased to use his great power to fulfill his responsibility to entertain every one of his fans. Elements, such as humor and drama, suspense and action, guarantee the storylines will be top-notch. But among these storylines, the ones that are special to me are those that involve the so-called entities that always find a way back to Spidey's life without triggering his Spider-Sense... the apartment's rent payments!

Okay, maybe not the rent, but...symbiotes!

Ever since I read WEB OF VENOM: CARNAGE BORN, I've been excited for another symbiote smackdown battle royal. We all know that a Carnage story isn't a Carnage story without murder, so I'm already guessing that there's already a line of symbiotes that will follow Scorn.

As we prepare ourselves to bid farewell to some of our favorite living goops, maybe we should celebrate their contributions and influence not only to their respective hosts, but also to the Marvel Universe. My imagination is showing me another multi-panel cover poster (like ASM #642-647) and variant covers that

feature the notable symbiotes (like in FEAR ITSELF: THE WORTHY).

Anyway, thank you once again and continue to keep up the good work.

Your fan,
R.R. Rafael
From The Philippines

P.S. Will we finally see Carnage vs. (Uncle) Anti-Venom? So hyped up for ABSOLUTE CARNAGE. LET CARNAGE RULE ONCE AGAIN!

Hi, R.R.! Thanks for your letter and for your great questions!

I've got some good news about all those variants--they're already underway!

We've got a pair of Variant Cover Programs in the works for fans and collectors just like you! They are...

THE CODEX VARIANTS: These will be a selection of covers that showcase characters who have worn Venom or one of its offspring and have codices in their DNA!

CULT OF CARNAGE VARIANTS: These covers will showcase the super villains who have been working with Carnage for the last several months!

Be sure to ask your shop about all of these covers and some of the other variants we've got in store!

As for your other questions, I don't want to spoil anything, but you're definitely not wrong. Carnage does tend to leave a body count behind wherever he goes...

Hey Venom team!

I have been a bit behind on VENOM, but I finally caught up now that school is out. I had left off around VENOM #10, and I was not expecting the twists and turns of VENOM #11. Just when I thought that was enough, you hit me with "Dylan is Eddie's son" in VENOM #12. You know, I am trying to be a comic book artist myself. With that being said, I find myself often focusing on the art a lot more than the story, so a story that REALLY captivates me as much as the art can be pretty rare. I thought I was in for a treat with Ryan Stegman's art, but I have been rewarded with some pretty great writing, too! Keep up the wonderful work; easily my favorite series this year.

Armando F.
New Orleans, LA

P.S. I must ask: Will we be seeing Dylan with a symbiote anytime soon? I believe that would be VERY interesting to see.

Man, what a nice note! Thanks so much, Armando, and thanks for keeping VENOM aside each and every month--even if you did have to put up with the last few weeks of school before you could sink your teeth into 'em!

Hey guys,

This is my first time writing here and I hope to make it in the next issue!

VENOM #13 was amazing!!! I knew about Venom, but then I went to my local comic shop

and picked up the first issue of VENOM by Donny and Ryan and I was hooked! I can't seem to put this book down!

Every month I'm looking forward to the next issue. Venom seems a lot like myself, how we both deal with our inner demons, and it speaks to me on a personal level. I cannot wait for ABSOLUTE CARNAGE!!! I was worried that when Venom became part of the War of the Realms he wouldn't work well in his own title, but it works!!! The way it's written works great for him! Also, will we see more of Knull in the future? I really liked the arc dealing with him, and something tells me we haven't seen the last of him!

Keep it up, guys!
I AM VENOM!

Tyler L.



Good afternoon,

I have been a Venom fan since I can remember. I love his personality and his own spin on the Marvel Universe. He is an inspirational character who is not the common hero one expects.

Seeing as Eddie and Venom were separated again in the last issue of VENOM, I know that we are up for a wild ride in the issues to come. The visuals of the last couple comics have been quite beautiful, and I am excited to see more of it in the next issues.

Thank you once again for years of my childhood, and I hope you know that you are changing lives in the world every day. Just saying that I finished a writing course titled "Sociopolitics of the Marvel Universe," where we read, analyzed and wrote about comics, goes to show how big of an impact you guys are making. Thank you!

Mario Becerra A.

What a kind letter to end on! Thanks so much for reading and for writing, Mario. It always means so much to all of us to hear that our work makes a difference!

That's it for this one, Venomaniacs! After this, we're past the point of no return...full steam ahead for CARNAGE!

Stay sharp,
Devin

NEXT:



